

Portfolio Gold

There will be £4,000 to be won every day when The Times Portfolio competition is re-launched as Portfolio Gold on Monday...

Tomorrow

Sound of musicals



While Broadway sleeps, song and dance shows are all the rage in London's West End. Sheridan Morley looks at the phenomenon...

Lawson predicts rates cut

There will be another worldwide cut in interest rates before the end of the year, Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, said...

Bank sold

Johnson Matthey Bankers, rescued from collapse in 1984 by the Bank of England, is to be sold to Westpac of Australia bank for £40 million...

Barclays cut

Barclays Bank cut its mortgage rate from 12.25 per cent to 11.75 per cent, making it the cheapest source of mortgage finance among the high street banks and the building societies...

Thatcher visit

Norway hopes that Britain will join the "30 per cent club", working to reduce acid rain by that amount, when Mrs Thatcher visits there in September...

Chirac vote

M Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister, narrowly won a confidence vote in Parliament on his Government's programme...

Parents' case

The European Commission of Human Rights has accused the Government of violating parents' rights by denying them access to their children in care...

Table with 2 columns: News, Reports. Includes items like Overseas, Arts, Business, Court, TV & Radio, Diary.

US builds up naval threat against Libya

Thirty ships of the US Sixth Fleet, including two aircraft carriers, were steaming in the Mediterranean yesterday as tensions rose between the United States and Libya...

The US aircraft carrier Coral Sea left Spain and joined the carrier America in the Mediterranean yesterday as tensions between the United States and Libya grew over bombing attacks against Americans...

President Reagan called the Libyan leader, Colonel Gaddafi, a "mad dog of the Middle East" but would not say if Washington would strike at Libya or suspected guerrilla groups because of bombings last week on a TWA jet over Greece and in a West Berlin discotheque...

Poll gives victory to Labour

Labour last night looked set to win the Fulham by-election to give Mr Neil Kinnock renewed hope of leading his party to triumph at the next general election...

Relief over Goya sale

Lord Wimborne, who has sold his Goya masterpiece to the Spanish Government for £4.1 million, said yesterday that he felt "vindicated" and relieved to see the end of a long legal controversy...

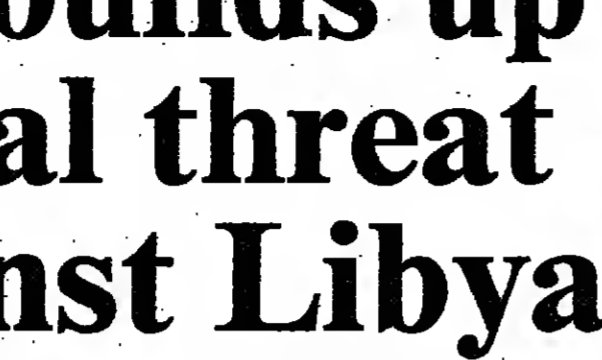
US nuclear test angers Moscow

The United States yesterday carried out its twice-postponed underground nuclear weapons test in the Nevada desert, the Energy Department announced...

Bankers' wife in Dublin gang kidnap

The wife of a wealthy merchant banker was last night being held for a ransom of £2 million after being kidnapped by armed raiders led by a man called "The Colonel"...

'The Colonel' demands £2 million



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The Prime Minister and Mr Neil Kinnock joined forces yesterday to reinforce their support for the Anglo-Irish agreement and its continued implementation...

Cabinet in shops Bill gamble

The Government gambled yesterday in an attempt to prevent its Sunday trading Bill being defeated in the Commons on Monday...

Bipartisan pledge on Ulster

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Advertisement for Famous Grouse Scotch Whisky, featuring a bottle and a partridge.

European commission finds violations of parental access rights

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government has been accused of violating the rights of parents by denying them access to their children in local authority care in five separate cases brought before the European Commission of Human Rights.

The commission's findings, which are still confidential, amount to yet another embarrassing ruling against the Government, which has been found in breach of the human rights convention in more than 12 cases.

The five cases have been referred to the European Court of Human Rights which will decide whether to endorse the commission's findings.

The commission's findings concern the right of parents to have access to their children in local authority care, and their right to challenge a local authority's refusal to grant access, including the right of access to the courts.

In all the cases, the parents were denied access when they wanted it. They were unable to challenge the decision in the courts, in breach of article six of the European Convention on Human Rights which guarantees access to a court to determine civil rights.

In the first case, two children were placed with foster parents by the local authority.

The parents tried unsuccessfully to have the care order revoked by the juvenile court, and were subsequently refused further access.

They then tried to make the children wards of court, so that the question of access would be raised. But the action was dismissed on the ground that the court had no power of jurisdiction.

The commission found by 10 votes to two that the Government was in breach of article six in that the applicants were denied a court hearing.

In a second case, the local authority passed resolutions assuming parental rights under the Children Act 1948. The children were placed with foster parents and the mother was told the authority planned placing them for adoption.

The mother failed to discharge the resolutions and sought unsuccessfully to make the children wards of court.

The commission ruled unanimously that there was a breach of the right to family life in that the mother was not consulted in the making of decisions on the children's future. By a 12 to three vote, it

found there was a breach of her right to have the issues determined by a court.

In a third case, the parents succeeded in revoking the parental rights of the local authority, which then applied to make their child a ward of court. As a result, the High Court denied access.

In a further case, a mother spent periods in a mental hospital, when her child was first made a ward of court. It was then placed in council care, with no access for the mother allowed, and finally recommended for adoption.

The mother's mental state improved and she applied for access. After a delay by the council in filing evidence, described by the judge as "quite deplorable", the mother's access was dismissed. A further appeal to the Court of Appeal was also dismissed, and leave to apply to the House of Lords was refused.

The Commission found that the delay before the hearing directly prejudiced the mother's case. It unanimously held that it violated the right to a court hearing and, by a vote of 12 to two, that there had been a breach of the right to family life.

Mr Steel shifts position on Polaris

By Philip Webster Political Reporter

Mr David Steel last night signalled an important shift in Liberal Party defence policy when he appeared to accept the case for a British nuclear force after Polaris.

Although he made clear that such a British contribution could only be part of a common European force, some of his Liberal colleagues and allies in the Social Democratic Party felt that Mr Steel had made a significant move towards the position of Dr David Owen.

One of the main differences between the two parties over defence rests on the future of Polaris. The Liberals believe that it should be negotiated away as part of the Geneva negotiations, but not replaced. But the SDP, although opposed to Trident, favours some form of replacement for Polaris.

Speaking to the annual conference of the Federation of European Liberal Democratic and Reform parties in Catania, Sicily, Mr Steel said: "The only justification for a British nuclear contribution is as part of the common defence, and its future must be included within the search for common security."



The Queen during a visit yesterday to St Peter's, Old Windsor, where she attended a service of thanksgiving and was shown restoration work at the thirteenth century church.

Electricity price cuts likely after fall in cost of oil

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

Mrs Thatcher last night backed demands for a cut in electricity bills after the slump in world oil prices.

She insisted in the Commons that a price reduction would be achieved by the National Coal Board (NCB) trimming the cost of supplies to Britain's power stations.

The Prime Minister's comments came after a 40-minute meeting of the Cabinet's economic affairs committee, during which ministers reviewed the public spending implications of the gas, electricity and coal industries in the light of the oil price cuts.

Mrs Thatcher told MPs: "The electricity supply industry will have to be in touch with the NCB about the prices of coal to enable the electricity industry to pass on some of the reductions which people would be expecting since the fall in prices of oil."

The Central Electricity

Generating Board (CEGB) and the NCB have been locked in tough talks for more than two weeks about the price of coal for Britain's power stations.

With the CEGB now able to buy oil at \$70 a ton, compared with \$200 a ton during the miners' strike, the electricity industry is in a strong position to demand a cut in coal prices or threaten to use more oil and less coal to produce electricity.

If the NCB is forced into making across the board price cuts, those would lead inevitably to more pit closures. Coal board chiefs say that a further cut in production could force more imports of high-priced coal because of insufficient home capacity.

Instead they are likely to press for a freeze in coal prices which, when inflation is taken into account, would enable electricity bills to be reduced by about 5 per cent.

Threat to Wapping journalists

By Michael Horsnell

Journalists producing News International's four titles at the company's new printing plant at Wapping in east London yesterday faced the prospect of expulsion from their national union.

Mr Harry Conroy, general secretary of the National Union of Journalists, told them at four separate meetings that the union's national executive will consider disciplinary action against those members still crossing picket lines, erected by the newspaper unions involved in the dispute at Wapping over the dismissal of 6,000 striking printers in January.

A list of members refusing to obey the national executive committee's instruction to observe the picket lines will be handed to the committee on Monday.

Disciplinary proceedings by the committee against the four fathers (chairmen) of the chapters (office branches) of the four newspapers are already in hand.

Of the 700 journalists employed at Wapping fewer than 30 have refused to cross the picket lines. Slightly more than 30 journalists employed on a casual basis have taken similar action.

Meanwhile journalists at The Sunday Times said that if no settlement is reached with the dismissed print workers by April 30 they will hold a secret ballot on industrial action.

The Sunday Times NUJ chapter overwhelmingly called on News International for a speedy settlement of the Wapping dispute.

A similar resolution was later passed by the News of the World NUJ chapter, and journalists on The Sun will debate on Monday a resolution calling on the national executive committee to hold a ballot on whether to call a strike. The Times chapter will also meet next week to discuss its position.

In another development in the dispute, Miss Brenda Dean, general secretary of Sogat '82, told a meeting of members that the print union was in serious financial difficulty after the sequestration of its funds.

Branches are without electricity; the support of other unions has been poor because they fear they would be in contempt of court, and many branch officers are no longer being paid.

She said: "We would hope that other trade unions would help us."

But Miss Dean said that two Sogat members will fly to Australia at the weekend to talk to employees there of Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman of News International, and added: "The fight goes on."

Detectives see wife of fugitive

Detectives searching for the prisoner who disappeared from a London hospital ward earlier this week said yesterday they had made contact with the man's wife, who visited him hours before a gang of men freed him (Stewart Tendler writes).

Alan Knowlden, aged 35, from south London, disappeared from St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, after being moved there for an operation to a fractured nose. Men armed with iron bars and ammonia struck soon after dawn on Tuesday, attacked three prison officers and freed Knowlden.

After the incident police appealed for Mrs Dawn Knowlden to come forward. She was at the hospital with another woman and a man the night before her husband escaped.

Move to stop grant claims

The Government is to rush through retrospective legislation to avoid legal claims for several billion pounds in black grant paid out to local authorities over the past six years.

Environment ministers, realising they were about to lose a High Court case taken by Birmingham City Council, announced yesterday that they intend to make the law retrospective to 1980 when the Local Government Planning and Land Act was passed.

GCHQ acts on unions

The management at GCHQ Cheltenham has started disciplinary proceedings against the Civil Servants who re-joined unions after taking the Government's £1,000.

They are being accused in letters of deliberately contravening the terms and conditions of service at the spy centre and are given 10 days to reply to the charge. Union leaders describe the move as vindictive.

Canada visit

Princess Anne will carry out engagements in New Brunswick and Ontario on a seven-day visit to Canada in June. Buckingham Palace announced yesterday. As president of the British Olympic Association, she will also visit Calgary, site of the 1988 Winter Olympics.

Launch delay

The launch of Mr Mac's 3,17,500 tonne Gorilla class oil rig and the largest vessel to be built on the Upper Clyde since the QE2, was delayed yesterday by an uncooperative wind and tide.

Family name linked to £1 bn dynasty

Mrs Jennifer Guinness and her husband, John, are relatively minor members of the sprawling family empire built up on both sides of the Irish Sea over two centuries.

But as chairman of its Irish merchant bank offshoot, Guinness Mahon, John Guinness is a wealthy man in his own right. The couple's home, Ceanchoir House, in the exclusive Dublin suburb of Bally Howth, is a testament to his success.

Mrs Guinness is English-born. Her maiden name was Holloway and her brother once owned the Bell shipping line at Waterford.

Mr Guinness is a director of six other companies besides



Mr John Guinness

Guinness Mahon; Dublin Documents Bureau; Edenderry Shoes; Erin Executive and Trustee Company

(Ireland). DIY specialists Heiton Holdings, Technico (Communications) and Telecom Alcatel.

Apart from family ties, there is no link with the other half of the dynasty, Arthur Guinness, the brewers, famous the world over for their dark stout. The brewing side of the family is among Britain's biggest companies, with a stock market value of more than £1 billion.

The family's titular head is Arthur Francis Benjamin Guinness, aged 49, who is chairman of brewers Arthur Guinness and Sons. His cousin in Bryan, aged 80, the second Lord Moyné of Bury St Edmunds, was deputy chairman of

the brewery arm until his retirement in 1979.

At one time he was married to Diana, widow of Sir Oswald Mosley, the British fascist leader of the 1930s.

Their eldest son, banker and former journalist Jonathan, is a former chairman of the Monday Club, while his younger brother, Desmond, aged 54, is a writer of works on Irish architecture.

Other prominent members of the family include Noel Guinness, former Conservative MP for Bath and John Guinness, now deputy secretary at the Department of Energy.

There is also Miss Sabrina Guinness, aged 30, at one time a friend of the Prince of Wales.

Routine patrol of bombs and bullets

Gavin Bell reports on a night with the police in Belfast

The interior of an RUC Land Rover on night patrol through the hard-line "loyalist" and republican strongholds of Belfast is the heart of darkness.

When the rear doors of the squat armoured vehicle clang shut, the profiles of the quiet men sitting facing each other are plunged into shadow. Only the dim street lights briefly illuminate the metal of their automatic rifles and assorted weaponry.

For the uninitiated, a sense of impending danger and the prospect of serious injury or worse pervades the gloom. During the course of this night, 35 patrol bombs were thrown and five shots fired at police patrols throughout the city. Two buses would be stoned by rioters, five vehicles would be burnt out and four barricades would be erected.

Later police will describe it as fairly average of the violence that has erupted since the Anglo-Irish agreement.

A chief inspector had briefed the two reporters on board on what to expect. The reinforced steel of the "Hotspur" would "stop quite a lot of stuff".

What it will not stop is the armour-piercing bullets favoured by republican gunmen, or those of heavy-calibre machine-guns that have been known to rip open a Land Rover and its occupants. The protection afforded by the armour plating suddenly seems appallingly inadequate.

There is no sign of nervousness from Dave, the driver, or John, his cheerful sergeant. Paul, sitting by the rear doors, appears equally at ease. He is the "gunner". It is his job to sprint out and provide cover for the rest of the crew to deal with any violent incidents.

We do not have to wait long. At 9.28 mobile support unit Ebony 5 pull out of a fortified police station, situated between a "green" area on Crumlin Road and an "orange" district along Shanklin Road.

Four minutes later a deafening crash, followed by the sound of splintering glass makes the reporters duck instinctively. Paul, who hasn't moved, says laconically: "You've just been bottled."

The next incident, in a Protestant area of the city, is similar. A stolen library van is on fire in a housing estate and firemen have been stoned. Several Hotspurs converge to provide protection, and we are assigned to a stretch of high ground overlooking the scene.

As Paul jumps out, his sergeant murmurs "watch yourself". Back comes the jaunty reply: "No problem". For 30 minutes John ceaselessly scans windows and the shadows of back alleys with a roof spotlight. Nothing happens. The blaze is extinguished and we pull out.

Victims of burning hatred

Continued from page 1

neighbours rushed in to put out the fire.

The three women have left the home where their family lived for 60 years and moved to RUC accommodation under tight security.

"We were very lucky not to have been burnt to death. If we had been upstairs we would have been cut off by the fire."

But Liz has no intention of leaving the RUC. "I've never seen the police as a political force. I joined 12 years ago because I wanted to help the people in the area."

Another part-time member of the force described a petrol bomb attack on his parents' home last week.

"Our mum and dad were living in constant fear, so I took them out for a drink to try and calm them down and that's when it happened: two petrol bombs through a back bedroom window."

Speaking on the doorstep of the neat terrace house as colleagues helped to remove furniture, he said his parents were moving to stay with one of his brothers - twelve years ago they were bombed out of their previous home in a republican area of Belfast.

Like Liz, he has no intention of leaving the force.

An elderly neighbour watching the sad procession of scorched belongings being brought out of the house, said: "It's a shame. These are good people. The best neighbours you could have. We're not living in a sane world."

Despite widespread sympathy a message scrawled in huge letters on a wall a few streets away testifies to the savage hatred of an extremist minority. A cruel distortion of a slogan for coal, it reads: "Join the RUC. Come home to a real fire."

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Thatcher and Kinnoch in Ulster pledge

Continued from page 1

Government on the province's affairs; she offered consultations with the Unionist leaders about the future of the Northern Ireland Assembly and about arrangements for handling Ulster business at Westminster; she agreed to consider a round table conference to discuss devolution in Northern Ireland; and she said that if progress was made "we should need to consider what that meant for the work of the intergovernmental conference" set up under the terms of the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet unexpectedly considered Northern Ireland at its meeting yesterday. It is thought that some anger was expressed about The Times report, which Downing Street sources dismissed as "wishful thinking". The suggestion that Lord Whitelaw had doubts about the Anglo-Irish agreement was also denied.



Mr Philip Coussens celebrating his fortieth birthday in 1984 with his wife, Valerie, who died in the helicopter crash along with his sons Nigel (left) and Stephen.

Helicopter crash inquest opened

The six people who were killed in a helicopter crash in Oxfordshire last Tuesday all died instantly from shock and multiple injuries, an inquest was told yesterday.

Mr Nicholas Gardiner, the Oxford coroner, opened the inquests on Mrs Valerie Coussens and her two sons,

Nigel, aged 16, and Stephen, aged 13, all of Stable Clock House, Tidmarsh Court, Berkshire; their two friends, Michael May, aged 16, of Brimpton Road, Banghurst, Hampshire, and Lester Knight, aged 14, of Reading Road, Wokingham, Berkshire; and the pilot, Captain Jeremy

Howe, aged 38, married with three children, of Greenhill Road, Winchester, Hampshire.

The helicopter was heading for Alton Towers in Staffordshire when it crashed in a field at Swalcliffe, near Banbury. The inquest was adjourned for a month.

Handwritten note: "The flight is filed"

Goya painting returns to Spain after £4m compensation agreed

By Geraldine Norman and Richard Wigg

The Goya masterpiece at the centre of a dispute over ownership has been acquired by the Kingdom of Spain, at a cost of \$6 million (£4.1 million). Agreement was reached on Wednesday night, after eight days of intensive negotiations.

Christie's, who were to auction the painting, the *Marquesa de Santa Cruz*, this morning, yesterday dismantled the bullet-proof glass protecting it and removed the picture from view at 8 am.

The valuation is substantially below the \$15 million (£10.25 million) that was being talked of in the trade as a fair market price, but Lord Wimborne, who owned the picture through a family trust, said yesterday that he was happy with the price. He is believed to have sold the picture at a profit.

The Spanish government alleged that the painting had been illegally exported from Spain. After Christie's announced in January that they intended to auction the painting on April 11, Spain called on them to withdraw it from sale and return it.

When Christie's and Lord Wimborne replied that the picture had left Spain with a valid export licence the Spanish government asked the British High Court to rule on the validity of the export document. Christie's and Lord Wimborne attempted to have the case struck out as being outside the jurisdiction of the British court, but failed.

Private negotiations between Lord Wimborne and the Spanish government for the picture's return came to nothing last year. This time Sir Matthew Farrer, the Queen's Solicitor, and Thomas Agnew, the Bond Street dealers, acted on behalf of the Spanish authorities, while Christie's represented Lord Wimborne.

The negotiations were conducted in the framework of the new code of practice for the control of international trading in works of art, agreed between the auctioneers and dealers' associations last year.

The saga began in 1983 when the London dealer, Mr Michael Simpson, was approached by Señor Pedro Saorin, a Spanish businessman, offering the painting. He said that the Spanish government had given him an export licence in return for a favour.

Lord Wimborne bought the painting on Mr Simpson's advice and it was flown to Zurich on April 6, 1983. The export documents are on official forms and carry the stamps and signatures of Spanish ministries. It is unclear how these documents were put together and by whom. Charges have been brought in Spain against Señor Saorin and Mr Simpson.

Lord Wimborne told a press conference yesterday: "I feel that I have vindicated my name. We bought the picture in good faith, but with all the publicity over the past year and a half, it has certainly been a very perturbing time."

Mr Jo Floyd, chairman of Christie's, said that the firm had charged a negotiated fee, £200,000, for the picture's return. He said that the firm had charged a negotiated fee, £200,000, for the picture's return.



Lord Wimborne with the Goya masterpiece, which is being returned to Spain after protracted negotiations

Portfolio Gold doubles prizes

If you have played Portfolio in The Times in the past, then you will have no difficulty in joining in when the competition is relaunched as Portfolio Gold on Monday.

There are two chief differences. First, the prize money is arranged so that there will be £4,000 to be won each day - double the previous amount; the weekly prize is fixed at £8,000. Second, the number of share prices quoted each day in the Portfolio list will increase to 44.

Portfolio

Because of the re-launch, Saturday is the last day on which the old blue Portfolio cards can be used; from Monday they will be invalid, as Portfolio Gold can be played only with the new gold cards that are being made available through newagents this week.

Make sure you have your Portfolio Gold card ready for Monday. Readers who experience any difficulty in obtaining one should send an s. a. e. to:

Portfolio Gold, The Times, P O Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ. Make sure, too, that your copy of The Times is on firm order at your newsagent, as Portfolio Gold is certain to increase demand for The Times.

Satanist quotes powers from Bible

Derry Mainwaring Knight, the self-styled satanist who had refused to take an oath on the Bible, yesterday held the same Bible in court and read from it.

Mr Knight said he wanted to prove that the Christian church had artefacts with power, influence and control over people as well as satanism.

He said he had intended to repay the committed Christians who had given him more than £200,000 had the police not arrested him. The money was banked in an offshore account and the satanic artefacts he needed to free himself from the control of the devil were stored abroad.

Mr Knight, aged 46, an unemployed painter and decorator from Dormans Land,

Surrey, denies 19 charges of obtaining more than £200,000 from wealthy Christians by deception.

Within minutes of entering the witness box he asked for the King James's Bible. Turning to Acts, chapter 19, verse 11, he read to Maidstone Crown Court: "And God did extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul so that handkerchiefs or aprons were carried away from his body and diseases left him and evil spirits came out of him."

Mr Knight said this showed that the apostle Paul had used the handkerchief as an artefact invested with power to heal people of sickness and diseases.

"I'm not asking you whether you believe that or if you find it

stupid," he told the jury. "I'm stating to you that in the Bible, that you wanted me to swear upon, a power was invested in a handkerchief and in the shadow of Peter and through the dead bones of a man."

"And if Christians find it incredible to believe, I understand you are going to find it virtually impossible that in the black arts and occult we have artefacts of metal that are able to control your subconscious mind."

Mr Knight spoke of the sector of Newick, Sussex, the Rev John Baker, who had raised the money from committed Christians to help free him from the devil's control.

Mr Knight said that Mr Baker continually tried to prevent him realising with a black mass against people

posing him problems.

Mr Knight said that to buy the satanic regalia to free himself from the control of the devil he had to become the head of his particular satanic organization.

He had a rival, "Giles", and to beat him he had to have at least an equally opulent lifestyle. That was why he drove Rolls-Royces and expensive sports cars. He explained this to Lord Hampden, who gave him £37,500 to buy a Rolls-Royce.

Mr Knight disclosed that his mistress, Angela Murdoch, was the woman named in court as Miss X, who allegedly had sexual relations with a bank manager and tried to blackmail him.

The hearing was adjourned until today.

Observer 'bribed Civil Servant'

The Observer acquired confidential information from a senior Civil Servant, it was alleged at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

The newspaper handed over £1,500 to Mr Raymond Williams, aged 39, who worked for the Ministry in Bath, the prosecution claimed.

The Observer Ltd. denies two charges of corruption. It is alleged that in November 1983 in Bath and in London, it paid Mr Williams an inducement or reward for orally providing information obtained in the course of his employment, and for providing documents, particularly a letter and a minute belonging to the Ministry of Defence.

The company was represented in court by Mr William Denny, QC. Mr Donald Trefford, editor of The Observer, was in court.

Mr Ian Kennedy, QC, for the prosecution, told the jury that The Observer used information gained from Mr Williams in an article headed: Defence Cover-up. Scandal of the wasted millions. The article was written by Patrick

Bishop and Ian Mather.

Mr Kennedy added: "The prosecution say the money was given as a bribe or reward to Williams for having given that material which was confidential, material which should not have been passed about."

He said the payments were not in question. What the jury would have to decide was whether they were a bribe or reward, or paid for reasons unconnected with the disclosure of the material.

He added that the case was not about the Official Secrets Act because what was disclosed was not secret, but confidential "matters which it is the duty of all employees to preserve for those who employ them".

Mr Kennedy said that in November when Mr Williams had asked The Observer for £1,000, a senior newspaper executive asked him whether "you are helping us out of principle, or is it just the money you are after?"

Mr Williams assured the newspaper that his motives were highly principled and the money was paid into his bank. The case continues today.

Princess speaks on hijacks

Princess Michael of Kent yesterday criticized newspapers and television for reporting every "gruesome" detail of hijackings, which served only to publicize spurious causes.

The Princess, opening the annual conference of the International Federation of Airline Pilots' Associations in London, said of the last year's terrorism: "The media was there, recording every gruesome detail for us. The hijackers achieved their aim and got their publicity for minority groups and spurious causes."

In lighter mood, she spoke of being terrified of flying, although she enjoyed ballooning and Concorde.

Captain Reg Smith, federation president, called for new international agreements so that no government could refuse a hijacked plane terrorists' permission to land.

Corporal faces murder charge

Lance Corporal John Phillip Walton, aged 28, who is stationed in Cyprus with the Life Guards, was remanded in custody by Esher and Walton magistrates yesterday, charged with murdering Michael Joannou, an Epsom public house landlord, found strangled on his lawn last week.

His wife, Mrs Marion Joannou, aged 35, from Camm Gardens, Thames Ditton, was charged with impeding the arrest of Lance Corporal Walton. She was remanded on bail.

Early drinkers were on Rhum

An archaeological excavation resumed yesterday on the Hebridean island of Rhum, which has yielded the earliest evidence of alcohol in Scotland.

A team hopes to discover the location of a mesolithic camp at Kinloch, the oldest known site of human habitation in Scotland, used about 6,000 years ago.

Judge injured rescuing cat

Mr Justice Roch, aged 52, was recovering in hospital yesterday after falling 20 feet and breaking a leg while trying to rescue his cat from a tree at Dyfed. The cat escaped unhurt.

Writer fined

Mr William Deedes, former editor of the Daily Telegraph, was yesterday fined £40 and had his driving licence endorsed by Folkestone magistrates after pleading guilty to parking too close to a pelican crossing in New Romney, Kent.

Asbestos conviction quashed

Intasun Holidays was cleared by the High Court yesterday of allowing employees to be exposed to dangerous asbestos fibres during building work at its offices in Grafton Road, Bradford, in 1984.

Quashing Intasun's conviction by Bradford magistrates last May, Mr Justice Russell said the prosecution was not supported by evidence.

Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, and Mr Justice Farquharson agreed that Intasun's appeal should be allowed and a £250 fine and £321 costs order should be set aside. Intasun was awarded costs against the city council.

Mr Justice Russell said the prosecution failed before it began. It had been brought by the city solicitor in the name of the city council instead of the council's environmental health officer, as the law required.

Mr Justice Russell said Intasun's general manager alerted the environmental health authority when asbestos fibres were released into the atmosphere.

Employees on the fourth floor stopped work immediately, but there was no evidence to show whether those near the contaminated area were allowed to remain at their work places.

Half an hour after the discovery the area was evacuated by an environmental health inspector.

Vicar is remanded in custody

A former vicar appeared in court at Hull yesterday accused of offences involving indecency towards children aged between 10 and 14.

The Rev Jan Knos, aged 53, of St Michael's vicarage, Hull, Humber-side, was remanded in custody for seven days.

The alleged offences, said to have taken place between October 1983 and January 1985, comprise three of buggery, 20 of indecent assault, four of them against girls, and five of gross indecency.

Twenty-three offences were alleged to have been committed at St Michael's vicarage. The rest were allegedly committed in a caravan near Beverley, Humber-side, a lay-by on the Beverley High Road and at the Bikeland Trial Park.



The Rev Jan Knos, who faces 28 charges.

Walking leads outdoor activities

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

Britain's most popular outdoor activity was walking, although more people were turning to jogging to keep fit, latest government figures show.

More than 20 per cent of men and 18 per cent of women said they had undertaken a walk of at least two miles within the past month.

Swimming and football still held their attractions, but many men had given up tennis and cricket. The popularity of jogging and athletics had risen from 1 per cent to 3 per cent since 1977.

Among indoor sports, darts were played by 11 per cent of

men, compared with 15 per cent in 1977. The number of women players remained the same at 4 per cent. Snooker, billiards and pool were increasingly attractive with 15 per cent of men taking part, a 4 per cent rise since 1977.

For women, swimming, keep-fit and yoga had the most devotees after walking.

The figures feature in a booklet, which caters generously to those fascinated by statistics, although many figures do not go beyond 1984. As well as providing a balance sheet for the nation's accounts it gives detailed population statistics.

Between 1964 and 1984 real after-tax income went up by 45 per cent per person. The number of unemployed had risen from 400,000 in 1964 to three million 20 years later.

There has also been sharp increases in households with cars and other commodities. Since 1964 the number of homes with washing machines rose from 53 per cent to nearly 82 per cent and those with at least partial central heating went up from 7 per cent to more than 66 per cent.

United Kingdom in Figures 1986 (Room 58/G, Government Offices, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ).

The £10 billion bang

What will be nineteen yards longer than Westminster Abbey, cost almost £10 billion, lurk, dead silent, beneath the Atlantic ocean ... yet be no more than a sparrow beside the American eagle?

In this week's Spectator Timothy Garton Ash opens up the huge metal tube of worms that is Trident.

Is it a necessary replacement for Polaris? Or will it squeeze the defence budget till the pips squeak?

And just what is our 'special relationship' with America? Would Trident be more popular if it were controlled by Britain alone?

In the most important article yet published on the subject that is "Westland to the power of one hundred," Garton Ash fully reveals the machinations of the

politicians concerned and sets out the options that remain as time runs out.

Mrs Thatcher refuses to reconsider. But she may find that she is

burdened with the most expensive purchase - politically as well as financially - that a shopkeeper's daughter ever made.

Also this week, Paul Johnson wonders whether Labour appreciate the media opportunity in front of them. Alastair Forbes remembers the indiscreet charm of Duff Cooper. William Deedes compares the Australian cricket crisis with our own.

And 'Absolute Beginners' is reviewed by Peter Ackroyd: "It uncovers all those potent little seeds of tackiness and despair which flourish in our time" - which is why he likes the film where others don't.

You can count on a good read with The Spectator, and still get change from a pound.

THE SPECTATOR

Policy on disabled defended

COMMONS

After the Prime Minister had maintained that the Government had an excellent record of helping the disabled, Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, said if she really cared about them, she would support the private member's Bill due to complete its remaining stages in the Commons tomorrow (Friday).

He drew attention to the Disabled Persons (Services, Consultation and Representation) Bill, sponsored by Mr Thomas Clarke (Monklands West, Lab), and asked for an undertaking that the Government would not introduce any amendments that would weaken or breach the principles of the Bill which had received widespread support.

Mrs Thatcher said the Government had tabled certain amendments which it believed would make proper provision without imposing undue pressures on local authorities.

Mr Kinnock: The Government's approach to this Bill is cheap and nasty. Will she not accept that, in both the interests of humanity and efficiency in providing proper care for the disabled and those who care for them and save the country £5 billion a year, this Bill would be a great deal of the way towards ensuring that they are properly represented and that information about their cases is properly communicated?

Mrs Thatcher: When it comes to expressing our care for the disabled, this Government has an extremely good record, better than that of any previous government.

We have increased spending on benefits for the long-term sick and disabled by over one third in real terms to over £4.5 billion.

The disabled associations made clear when we came to office that their main priority was a speeding up of the introduction of the mobility allowance, which we did. We increased it substantially and made it non-taxable and increased spending on it by four-and-a-half times in real terms.

It is not for Mr Kinnock to criticize the record of this Government on help for the disabled.

Mr Kinnock: Surely she must know that no one who is disabled or who cares for them can accept the description of her policies she has offered. It simply does not bear up in practice.

She heads a Government that cut the invalidity allowances and cut back on local government which prevented them even fulfilling their statutory duties towards the disabled.

Will she not accept that all of the advances made under her Government were originated by the last Labour Government?

If the Prime Minister cares as much as she says she cares, surely supporting this Bill would be a very small addition to what she has already done?

Mrs Thatcher: Which of the facts I have given does he quarrel with? We have also extended the long-term supplementary rate to many disabled people and extended the entitlement to invalidity care allowances to non-relatives.

It is an excellent record for disabled people and all of the finances have been found in the lifetime of this Government.

Bill coming to keep block grant system unchanged

COUNCIL FINANCE

The Government was accused of a bare-faced attempt to interfere with the judicial process when Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State for the Environment, announced the introduction this session of a short Bill to maintain the status quo in the block grant system for local authorities.

The Bill is intended to remove any doubts about the interpretation of the Secretary of State for the Environment's power to determine block grant "multipliers" to limit changes in the grant entitlements of individual authorities from year to year.

Birmingham City Council is already taking court action against the Secretary of State on the issue. The case is due to open next Tuesday and Mr Jack Straw, an Opposition environment spokesman, said Mr Waldegrave was making a panic statement because the DoE had been advised it would lose.

Mr Waldegrave said it had not yet been decided how to handle the Birmingham case and consultations were continuing.

In his statement, he said that generally block grant was paid to compensate authorities for differences in their expenditure needs and in their rateable resources. In addition, the 1980 Local Government Planning and Land Act gave the Secretary of State power to determine block grant multipliers.

In every year since 1981 this power had been used to set safety nets to protect local authorities against undesirable losses in any one settlement. In two years it had also been used to set caps on increases to prevent undesirable gains by some authorities at the expense of all others.

For 1986-87, the then Secretary of State made clear that he proposed to use these powers to restrict windfall gains result-

ing from the decision to disperse with expenditure targets.

This year for the first time a handful of authorities had questioned the use of this power. They maintained that the Secretary of State's power was restricted to limiting changes in the overall amount of grant payable to an authority for one year compared with the previous year, but that the powers could be used in any other way.

One authority (he said) has already taken court action on this, and I understand that a number of other authorities are considering similar action.

Mr Waldegrave said there were plenty of occasions when the law to mean what it had been thought it meant.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, the former Secretary of State for the Environment, said it was perfectly legitimate to legislate in this way in order to implement settled expectations.

Mrs Edwina Currie (South Derbyshire, C) said she congratulated Labour-controlled local authorities on their new-found respect for so-called Tory judges and their determination to abide by court orders if they could get them.

The state of the law was intolerable and there would be only muddle if it was not changed.

Mr Waldegrave replied that he did not think Mr Straw was serious in opposing this legislation.

Sensible, practicable fashion under this alternative interpretation.

Such an interpretation would cast doubt on the grant entitlement for 1986-87 and for every previous year back to 1981-82 under the rate support grant settlements which the House had approved.

It would (he said) clearly be most unsatisfactory, if a procedure which has been followed since 1981-82 were to be overturned particularly since, throughout this period there has been a broad measure of agreement on what the provision meant between the department and the local authority associations, many of whose members would face wholly unmanage-

able losses of grant if any other interpretation of the 1980 Act were to become accepted.

The Government is not prepared to allow that to happen and believes we must take action to preserve the status quo.

Mr Straw said the statement raised a most serious constitutional issue. It was a bare-faced attempt by the Government to interfere with the judicial process. Ministers were proposing to use their majority in the Commons to pre-empt the decision of a court not yet made.

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able losses of grant if any other interpretation of the 1980 Act were to become accepted.

Motion of no confidence in minister

EDUCATION

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during Commons questions that she had great confidence in her Secretary of State for Education and Science, Sir Keith Joseph, who a Labour MP described as a "name duck".

Mr Jeremy Corbyn (Islington North, Lab) had asked: Would the Prime Minister tell us whether she has confidence in her lame duck Secretary of State for Education or in the governors of a school in her constituency in Finchley under the chairmanship of the former chairman of Finchley Conservative Association, Councillor John Tiplady, who have voted that it is impractical to proceed with the GCSE examination course starting this September?

Mrs Thatcher: I have great confidence in the Secretary of State for Education and Science and so have my constituents.

Later, during business questions, Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, indicated that there would be a debate on education next Thursday initiated by Alliance MPs.

Mr David Alton (Liverpool, Mossley Hill, L) said that in the debate the Alliance parties intended to move a motion of no confidence in Sir Keith

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Castro joining the capitalists

There was laughter in the chamber when Mr Matthew Parris (West Derbyshire, C) asked the Prime Minister during questions time in the Commons to congratulate Fidel Castro, through the Cuban ambassador, on his decision to sell Cuban council houses to their sitting tenants.

Mrs Thatcher replied: I confess I have not reported that as a top priority of the day but any move towards capitalism and freedom by a communist society is welcome.

Ensuring future of airports policy

AVIATION

The Airports Bill would ensure the United Kingdom airport industry continued to be the envy of the world, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, said in the Commons when the Bill received its third reading by 303 votes to 131 - Government majority, 165.

Moving the third reading, he said it provided the statutory underpinning of the future of airports policy, powers for the Government to fulfil its strategic responsibilities towards one of the major national resources, opportunities for airports to reap the benefits of the commercial, business-like approach to airport management and strong and continuing protection against monopoly abuse for airlines and passengers.

The Bill incorporated protection against predatory pricing which could harm another airport's business. Competition would be open and above all free. Manchester would have no grounds to fear competition from Stansted, Heathrow or Gatwick. The Bill would ensure that the airport industry would not be a victim of predatory pricing from Stansted which would harm its business.

I believe we have got the best of both worlds (he said). The United Kingdom would have the benefits of a strong South East system, but the Bill would ensure its strength was not used to the detriment of sound airport development in other parts of the country but to beat European competitors who were trying to muscle in on Britain's business.

Privatization of BAA would bring benefits. Employees would be encouraged to take a stake in their own future by purchasing shares in their company. The details of the employee share scheme were still being discussed but he would expect benefits to be offered on a similar scale to that of British Telecom employees: £70 worth of free shares per employee; two free shares for each one bought up to a total of £200 worth of free shares; and 10 per cent discount on up to £2,000 worth of shares. The priority rights of application for full price shares.

Mr Robert Hughes, chief Opposition spokesman on transport, said this was not a matter of principle but a matter of practice. The House would be asked to vote on a motion of no confidence in the Government at a third reading if the BAA was to be sold off at a fraction of its true value.

Mr Alfred Morris (Manchester, East Cheshire, Lab) said despite MPs' efforts to introduce a motion of no confidence into the Bill, it remained largely deficient and incomplete. It was a bad Bill and would make a bad law.

Mr Toby Jessel (Twickenham, C) said the Bill should include provision to allow the profits from duty free drink at airports would be used to pay the cost of double glazing for his constituents to protect them from aircraft noise.

Mr Michael Meadowcroft (Leeds, West, L) said the Bill was unsatisfactory to him and his colleagues and he opposed the third reading.

Mr Terence Dicks (Hayes and Uxbridge, C) said he was one of the rebels against the Bill. He agreed completely with the principle of privatization but there were lots of things wrong with the Bill.

Mr John Carlisle (Luton, North, C) said he wanted to see the scheduled flights from Luton and they were not afraid of fair competition. But if Stansted continued as a subsidised airport and was not made to stand on its own feet there would be that continuing worry.

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Bidder for Land Rover accuses Channon of 'changing the rules'

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, yesterday issued new guidelines to potential bidders for Land Rover in an attempt to defuse an acrimonious dispute between his department and two of the original bidders.

At one stage during the day the Land Rover management consortium threatened complete withdrawal. Along with rivals Lomho they accused Mr Channon of "changing the rules" to permit a last-minute approach by a third potential bidder, Mr Joseph Bamford, the north Staffordshire manufacturer of construction machinery.

They were also unhappy that he appeared prejudicial towards Mr Bamford by arranging to visit the company's Rochester plant today only three days after the chairman, Mr Anthony Bamford, had thrown his cap into the ring.

A J.C. Bamford spokesman said: "Mr Channon's visit was arranged some two months ago, although we were rather surprised and of course delighted when he decided to go ahead in the present circumstances."

Mr David Andrews, the BL main board director who leads the consortium, said it was his

firm understanding that only those parties who had indicated interest by the original March 4 deadline would be allowed to submit proposals by the new deadline set for next Tuesday.

He told *The Times*: "This could go on for ever. We could be trying to settle this business next Christmas if Mr Channon keeps accepting new approaches. We have already waited two months. Our backers are committing very large sums of money to this venture and they cannot afford to do that indefinitely. The indication is also threatening new Land Rover export orders now in the final stages of negotiation."

But last night a DTI spokesman said Mr Channon had now made it clear to both original bidders that "He expects the present time-frame to remain in place with no material extensions."

Mr Andrews said: "The new DTI statement suggesting no further extensions is more reassuring." But he refused to say whether it meant that a withdrawal was no longer an option.

The City is not impressed by the withdrawal threat. It expects both the consortium and Lomho to submit bids in excess of £140 million by next week's deadline, but is less confident that a bid will be forthcoming from Bamford.

Last night Land Rover refused to give details of new export orders worth £40 million for Middle and Far Eastern armies beyond confirming that contracts had been signed.

It is believed these threatened orders include another £40 million contract to supply the Australian army with 2,500 Land Rovers including a specially-developed six-wheel version for very heavy duty work.

● The first strike for 18 months at Austin Rover's Longbridge factory near Birmingham has halted production of the company's best-selling Metro. Nearly 2,000 workers were idle last night because of a walk-out in support of a colleague suspended for two days for refusing to obey his foreman. A further 1,300 were laid off by the company.

An appeal hearing yesterday upheld the suspension. A company spokesman said the employee was disciplined last December for a similar offence.

Pet cancer treatment gives hope to humans

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

Progress in the treatment of animals suffering from cancer is offering more hope to human victims as well as their pets, leading veterinary surgeons said yesterday.

The Animal Health Trust, a charity which helps horses, dogs and cats with medical conditions, launched an appeal for almost £1 million to fund new projects, including cancer research.

The rate of cancer in dogs is greater than in humans, and large numbers of cats are also affected, Mr Brian Singleton, director of the trust and past president of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, said at the Kennel Club in London.

The trust, of which the Queen is the patron, is seeking £365,000 to buy radiotherapy and other equipment to treat pets such as Hoopy, a nine-year-old Boxer with skin cancer. New equipment is also being sought to treat eye conditions in dogs such as Kirsty, a three-year-old German shepherd guide dog.

Dr Larry Owen, the trust's expert in animal cancers, said: "Our work is of increasing benefit to humans as well as pets. The exchange of information between the two medical disciplines is very important."



Kirsty with its owner, Miss Nickette Finlan, at the launch of the £1 million appeal yesterday (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Lambeth scheme to employ rebels

By Anthony Evins Political Correspondent

Lambeth Labour Party is considering a plan to take Mr Ted Knight and 29 other disqualified councillors on to the council payroll if the party is returned to power in the May 8 elections.

Party sources said yesterday that the banned councillors were facing possible surcharges of as much as £8,000 each, and the scheme to give them jobs had been devised to help them overcome their financial crisis.

Salaries would be fixed at a suitably high level, to take account of the surcharges which had been imposed as a result of their "loyalty to Labour policy" in defiance of Conservative government rates cuts.

It is proposed that they would be offered jobs as special "advisers" to the council, which would also mean that they would effectively lose little of the political power that they held before they were barred from office for five years, at midnight on April 2.

Mr Knight and his colleagues lost their appeals against surcharge and disqualification on March 5, when Mr Knight said that he was expecting to be made bankrupt.

Irradiation 'no risk' to food standards

By John Young Agriculture Correspondent

Irradiation of food within specified limits provided an acceptable method of preserving food, and posed no risk to public health, according to a report by a government-appointed advisory committee, published yesterday.

The committee, under the chairmanship of Sir Arnold Burger, Master of Darwin College, Cambridge, says it is satisfied that ionizing irradiation up to 10 kilograys (a standard radiation measurement) would not lead to a significant change in the natural radioactivity of the food or prejudice its safety and wholesomeness.

Irradiation, used in other countries but so far banned in Britain, can be used to destroy the spoilage organisms in food; delay the ripening of fruit and the sprouting of certain vegetables; and control insect infestation of grain and other stored products.

The report suggests that if food irradiation were permitted in the United Kingdom, regulatory controls and practices would need to be introduced at the same time.

The Food Advisory Committee says that there should be a law requiring irradiated food to be labelled to inform purchasers.

£7m proposal for Whitehall reform

By Colin Hughes

Proposals for breathing new life into Whitehall by appointing teams of political advisers in every government department are made today by an ad hoc group chaired by Sir John Hoskyns, former head of the Prime Minister's think tank.

The group, publishing its programme before an Institute of Directors conference next month on creating fresh skills in government, says that the first main reform of the machinery of British government since the Second World War would cost only £7.7 million.

Sir John, now director-general of the institute, said the plan would be a British adaptation of the French ministerial cabinet system.

The machinery of government is out-of-date and unable to tackle the nation's most pressing problems, he says. Ministers are overworked; Civil Servants wrestle with political neutrality; the 30-year rule makes it impossible to learn from past mistakes.

There is no long-term planning and little co-ordination between departments; outsiders are rarely used, and opposition policy is prepared on a shoestring.

The group proposes that every Cabinet minister should have an executive office, staffed by an extra six to eight political appointees, who would act independently from the traditional career Civil Service as experts, researchers and advisers.

They would tackle long-term issues, relieve the minister of day-to-day party and constituency work burdens, and keep ministers informed about issues affecting the whole of government.

At a cost of £350,000 for each department, the proposal could be implemented within a week of any government taking office.

"Executive offices would represent the first step towards a technology for the 1990s," the group says.

Executive offices could be created with only a parliamentary statement by the Prime Minister and a "minute" adjustment in departmental budgets. "Longer term changes would require lengthy debate within Parliament; many would require detailed legislation. We put forward here a first step on which the more cautious reformers and the more radical should be able to find common ground."

The paper, titled *Re-skilling Government*, has been written by Mr Peter Hennessy of the Policy Studies Institute; Mr Graham Mather, head of the institute's policy unit; Mr Norman Strauss, formerly of the Downing Street policy unit; and Dr William Wallace, of the Royal Institute for International Affairs, and will be submitted to a conference at the institute on May 12.

Mr Hardy and his Merlin phone system perform the illusion of transporting Birmingham Bull Ring to Cannon Street, EC4.

IN WHICH WE LEARN OF THE MANY ADVANTAGES OF UNITING DIVERSE AND DISTANT EMPORIA WITH A SINGLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM.

Ernest Hardy was no ordinary head of a nationwide business. He was a man with uncommon vision and an unusual sense of theatre.

"the Birmingham branch. Apparently in this very building. An illusion, of course. But magnificently effected by

keyboard and screen. "Suppose I want to work with files from the Brighton office. A simple case of one, two, three and presto!" Hardy's fingers danced over the keyboard and the screen began to fill with text. "Data, Gentlemen, down the telephone line. I give you the Merlin DX communications system from British Telecom in all its considerable glory." It was a little dramatic, but Hardy was in a thespian mood.



INTERNAL CALLS FROM THE OUTSIDE

This was never more evident than today as he prepared to introduce the Board to their new Merlin DX communications system from British Telecom.

"As from today," began Hardy, "we shall be working far more closely with our Birmingham and Brighton branches. You may in fact assume that they now share this very building." The Board looked round uneasily.

A VISION OF THE FUTURE

The Board applauded enthusiastically. "The dawn of a new beginning. We now have a system that allows us to pool our resources, to share knowledge and experience." Hardy stopped. He had succeeded in transporting both Birmingham Bull Ring and the Brighton branch to Cannon Street. He had presented them with the Merlin DX communications system. What more could anyone want?

"Allow me to effect a small demonstration." Hardy turned to his assistant. "Miss Snow, would you be so kind? Gentlemen, I need barely remind you of the time, trouble and expense it takes to reach our Birmingham office." The Board nodded, recalling forgotten numbers and frayed tempers. "Miss Snow, would you dial 4596. Apparently an internal number, Gentlemen, 4596." Miss Snow complied, with a flourish.

our Merlin DX communications system." "Remarkable indeed, but, Gentlemen, we must not think only of ourselves. A single set of operators and a single set of equipment here in Cannon Street will now be able to service the whole company. More satisfied customers, quicker responses, seconds saved on every call. It's all time in the bank, Gentlemen."

SHARED RESOURCES FOR GREATER SATISFACTION

Almost instantly she replied to the voice and replaced the receiver. "That was Hargreaves from the Birmingham office." "As promised," announced Hardy,

"MORE THAN SIMPLE SPEECH" "There's more, Gentlemen. Data," Hardy whipped a black cloth from the table before him to reveal a

Ferry sails and takes strikers

A Felixstowe ferry was seized by its owners in a dawn raid and sailed to Rotterdam yesterday with 21 striking crew members still on board.

A dozen Dutch seamen, hired by the owners, Townsend Thoresen, boarded the 8,590 tonne Doric Ferry at 3.30am and set sail.

The crew, who had been sitting in on the freight ferry for five weeks, were asleep when the ship left the port.

The Doric Ferry arrived at Rotterdam late yesterday.

Townsend Thoresen said the action, which came on the day talks aimed at ending the strike were to resume, was necessary to recover 67 containers of freight on board.

The Doric Ferry had been strike-bound at the Suffolk port because of a manning dispute.

The NUS Felixstowe port committee yesterday described the company action as "industrial piracy".

Rare sand lizards' ideal home

By Hugh Clayton Environment Correspondent

A clutch of young lizards will be let loose in sand dunes near the Royal Birkdale golf course on Merseyside today in an effort to protect one of Britain's most rare wild animals from extinction.

They are sand lizards, which are larger and more colourful than the common lizard that is sometimes found in gardens.

Mr Keith Corbett, who brought the three-inch-long newcomers to Merseyside from a reptile farm in Surrey, said that the sand lizards looked different from their conspecifics in southern heathlands.

Sand lizards, which lived among marram grass, were more striped than the spotted ones that lived in heather. "The sand lizards have been isolated for at least 2,000 years," Mr Corbett, who is conservation officer for the British Herpetological Society, said.

Reptile researchers believe that there are only between 5,000 and 10,000 sand lizards left in Britain, of which most live in Dorset heathland with a few surviving near the western boundaries of Surrey. A few hundred also survive in ideal conditions in sand dunes at Southport.

The animals are not poisonous, and have the highest degree of protection under wildlife law. Mr Corbett said that 50 years ago there were about 10,000 of the animals near Southport.

The society had started to capture wild sand lizards with the permission of the Nature Conservancy Council, the wildlife quango.

The animals were then encouraged to lay eggs at the Surrey farm, and in the year after breeding the hatched offspring were let loose in the countryside.

Social worker wins appeal


One of three social workers dismissed last December after the death of Jasmine Beckford, aged four, has been reinstated.

Mr William Thompson was reinstated as principal court officer at Brent council, north-west London, after a two-day appeal hearing. The girl's stepfather, Maurice Beckford, is serving a 10-year sentence for manslaughter.

Puppets sale

Peiham Puppets, the famous puppet and toy-making firm, of Marlborough, Wiltshire, which was forced into voluntary liquidation in January, has been bought from the receiver by Mr Charles Wrey, aged 37, a businessman.


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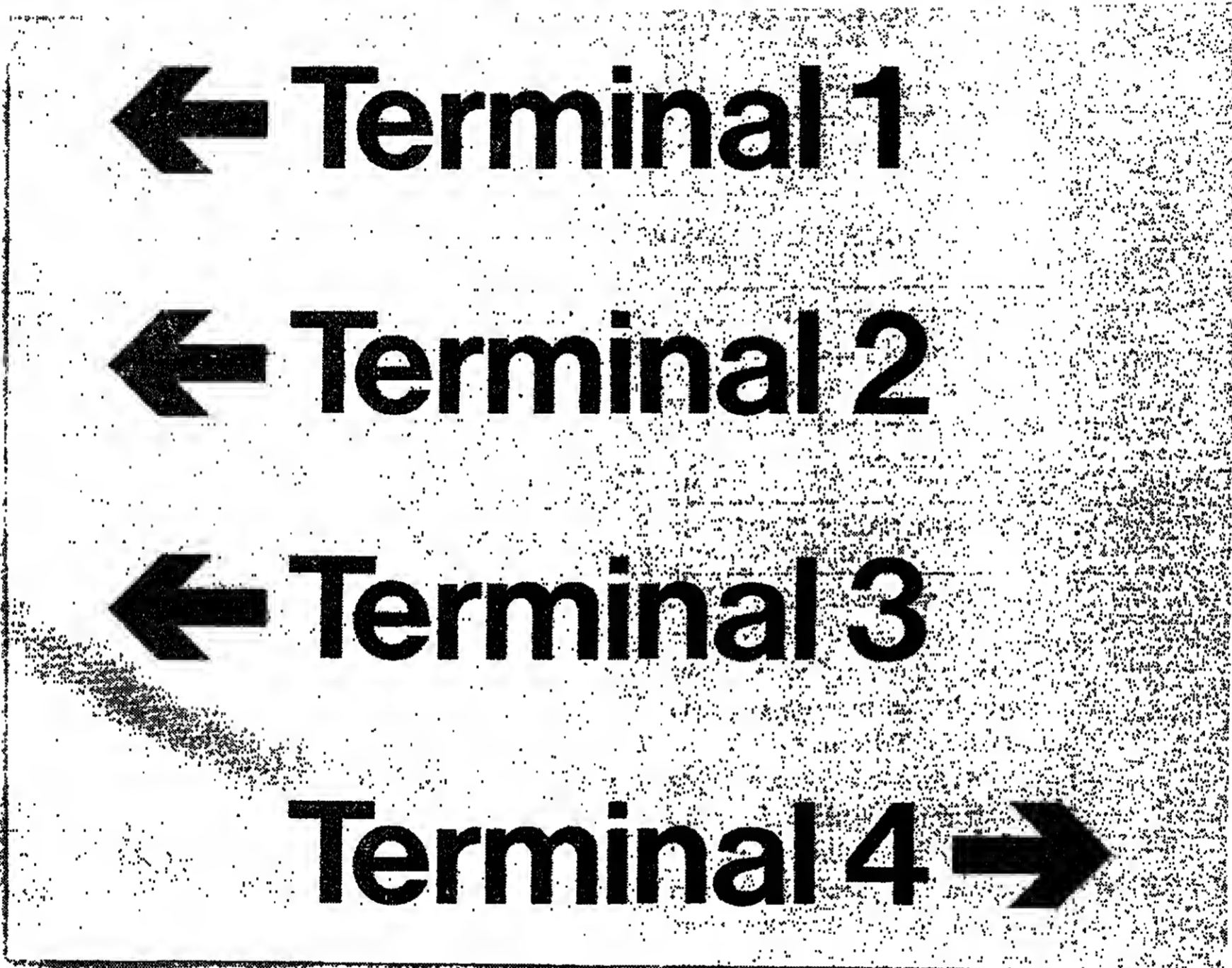
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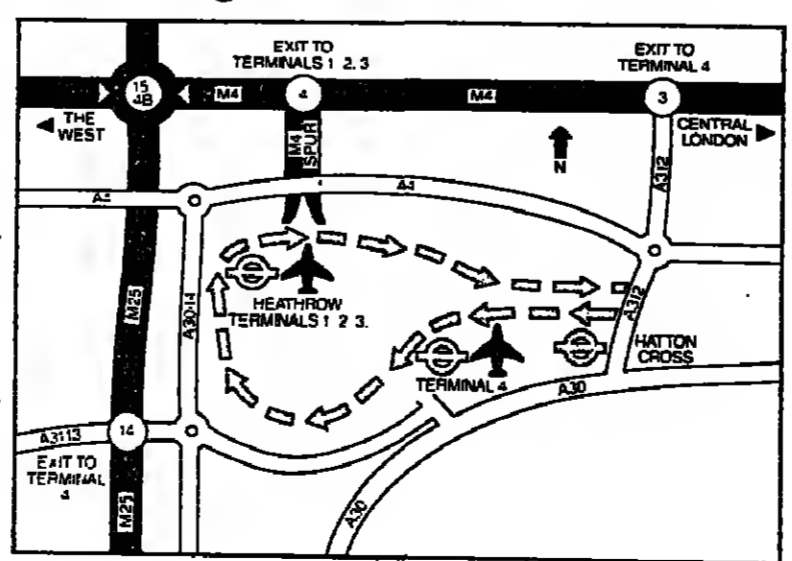
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HEATHROW - GATWICK - STANSTED - GLASGOW - EDINBURGH - PRESTWICK - ABERDEEN

Handwritten note: [...]

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US urged halt minor business ai

Arabs in funds to regain PLO in south Lebanon

By Robert Fisk, Middle East Correspondent

...of the PLO in Lebanon is a dramatic... The Shia Muslim Amal militia in southern Lebanon has prevented the PLO from operating on foot outside the Rashidiya camp south of Tyre, and the UN zone north of the Israeli border does not appear to have been penetrated by Palestinians.

But Syria's control over the PLO in Lebanon has clearly been broken. And if the Israeli fear the renewed Palestinian guerrilla presence around Sidon, they may yet be forced to make unofficial cause with Syria to prevent PLO attacks along the border. Israel can scarcely invade Lebanon all over again — and its own occupation zone is increasingly dangerous as it comes under attack by Lebanese resistance guerrillas.

There is ample evidence of this, not just in the Katyusha rockets which have been falling into Israel's occupation area and inside its own territory but in the details — hitherto unrevealed — of this week's suicide car bomb attack on a

checkpoint manned by gunmen of Israel's proxy "South Lebanon Army".

For the Lebanese bomber drove his carload of explosives up from the south, from inside the Israeli-occupied territory.

There is equal evidence in southern Lebanon that Israel's Lebanese militia is using similar tactics to the anti-Israeli guerrillas and the PLO, being allowed by the Israelis to fire indiscriminately into Muslim villages to the north.

In some of the villages, the local population, embittered by incidents of harsh Israeli treatment during their latest raid through UN lines, is allowing Hezbollah members to take over from the moderate Amal militia. Israel had once hoped would prevent resistance.

There are rifts within the local Amal movement, and east of Nabatieh up to 600 new Lebanese Hezbollah gunmen have arrived from the Bekaa and from Beirut.

Reagan renews Contras aid call

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan has called on the House of Representatives to "show the world that the United States is determined to defend freedom in Central America" by voting next week to resume military aid to the Nicaraguan Contras.

The vote, scheduled for Tuesday, looks certain to lead to the resumption of aid, which was cut off by Congress in mid-1984. The only argument dividing the Republicans and Democrats seems to be over preconditions for attempting peace negotiations before releasing the money.

At his press conference on Tuesday night, Mr Reagan referred several times to the "bipartisan" nature of congressional policy towards Nicaragua.

Although Democrat leaders might scoff at the word, it is now clear that opposition opinion in the House has moved almost alongside that of the Republicans, who want to continue America's close entanglement with the Contras.

Mr Reagan cited recent Nicaraguan raids into Honduras as "a search-and-destroy mission to kill off the freedom fighters". He said the "Sandinista communists" had torpedoed the Contadora peace talks in Panama City, which foundered on Monday.

These events demonstrate that the Nicaraguan communists will never make peace with their neighbours, or with their own people, unless the pressure on them increases.

The communists must realize that they cannot crush their opponents — and our assistance can ensure that the freedom fighters are not crushed. That assistance will give Nicaraguans a choice and



Mr Reagan fielding a question at his press conference.

Bombers hit Air France office

Libson — The French terrorist group, Action Directe, claimed responsibility for yesterday's bombing of the Air France office here (Martha de la Cal writes).

Damage was extensive but there were no injuries. A man speaking with a heavy Spanish accent made the claim in a telephone call to the Portuguese national news agency Anop in Oporto.

Action Directe, he said, was attacking all French interests because the Government in Paris had been collaborating with the US. The group was in total solidarity with Libya.

A political double act

Carmel, California (Reuter)

Two actors who have succeeded in politics swapped jobs when President Reagan telephoned to congratulate Clint Eastwood on a landslide victory in becoming mayor of his home town.

"We exchanged a few one-liners," Mr Eastwood said. The President asked: "What's an actor who's played opposite a monkey doing in politics?" Mr Reagan once played opposite a monkey in *Bedtime for Bonzo*, and Mr Eastwood has also starred in comedies with monkeys.

Banker held

Naples (Reuter) — A former director-general of the state-owned Banco di Napoli, southern Italy's largest credit institution, has been arrested on embezzlement charges.

Raffaele di Somma, aged 63, dismissed as vice-director of the bank by its governing board, gave himself up after a warrant was issued for his arrest.

Peru strikes

Lima (Reuter) — More than 7,000 Peruvian state doctors and 15,000 miners went on strike, and in the southern city of Puno the left-wing mayor called on shops, banks and buses to join a 48-hour local stoppage.

Rogue leopard

Dhaka (Reuter) — A rogue leopard which had killed three children in a remote area of southern Bangladesh went on the rampage after it was wounded by forest rangers, killing a woman and seriously wounding 12 men.

Britons killed

München (Reuter) — Two British soldiers stationed in West Germany were killed when their car hit a stationary lorry on a motorway near Dortmund.

Swedes refuse

Stockholm (Reuter) — Sweden has rejected a Soviet demand to hand back a Soviet seaman who defected last month after hijacking a fisheries inspection vessel.

Indians refuse

Mocmón, Honduras (Reuter) — About 5,000 Nicaraguan Miskito Indians have crossed into Honduras in the past two weeks to avoid fighting between Sandinista troops and Kisan Indian rebels, refuge and military sources said.

Family murder

Delhi (AP) — Gunmen broke into a house near the Hindu holy city of Varanasi and shot dead seven members of a family as they slept, the United News of India reported.

Heart death

Pittsburgh (AP) — A 43-year-old American, Gary Blake, who received an artificial heart last month, died here on Wednesday before surgeons were able to find a suitable human heart for him.

Unifil post

New York (AFP) — General Gustav Haggund from Finland will be appointed to head the United Nations Truce Force in Lebanon (Unifil), succeeding General William Callaghan of Ireland, sources here said. General Haggund has been commander of the UN force in the Golan since last June.

Hanoi mission

Bangkok (AFP) — A US delegation flew to Hanoi to collect the remains of 21 servicemen missing in action from the Vietnam war.

UK rail deal

Bangkok (AFP) — The Thai Government has approved a deal with British Rail Engineering to buy coaches and other equipment, worth about £47 million.

Olympic ride

Istanbul (Reuter) — Two handicapped Birmingham men will roll their wheelchairs more than 2,000 miles from Istanbul to the Midlands to promote the city's bid to stage the 1992 Olympics. Tim Marshall and Bill Levick said they would leave here on Sunday.

Jet travel identified as the real enemy of Washington

Robert Fisk, Middle East Correspondent

...of the PLO in Lebanon is a dramatic... The Shia Muslim Amal militia in southern Lebanon has prevented the PLO from operating on foot outside the Rashidiya camp south of Tyre, and the UN zone north of the Israeli border does not appear to have been penetrated by Palestinians.

But Syria's control over the PLO in Lebanon has clearly been broken. And if the Israeli fear the renewed Palestinian guerrilla presence around Sidon, they may yet be forced to make unofficial cause with Syria to prevent PLO attacks along the border. Israel can scarcely invade Lebanon all over again — and its own occupation zone is increasingly dangerous as it comes under attack by Lebanese resistance guerrillas.

There is ample evidence of this, not just in the Katyusha rockets which have been falling into Israel's occupation area and inside its own territory but in the details — hitherto unrevealed — of this week's suicide car bomb attack on a

checkpoint manned by gunmen of Israel's proxy "South Lebanon Army".

For the Lebanese bomber drove his carload of explosives up from the south, from inside the Israeli-occupied territory.

There is equal evidence in southern Lebanon that Israel's Lebanese militia is using similar tactics to the anti-Israeli guerrillas and the PLO, being allowed by the Israelis to fire indiscriminately into Muslim villages to the north.

In some of the villages, the local population, embittered by incidents of harsh Israeli treatment during their latest raid through UN lines, is allowing Hezbollah members to take over from the moderate Amal militia. Israel had once hoped would prevent resistance.

There are rifts within the local Amal movement, and east of Nabatieh up to 600 new Lebanese Hezbollah gunmen have arrived from the Bekaa and from Beirut.

Russians slice into Eurobutter

From Richard Owen, Brussels

The sale of 100,000 tonnes of EEC butter to the Soviet Union at highly subsidized prices is to go ahead, the European Commission said yesterday.

Trade sources say that the agreed price is equivalent to 10p a pound, implying a huge EEC subsidy.

The deal is taking place under a new EEC tender system. Commission officials complained yesterday that the butter is 18 months old. It accounts for about a tenth of the butter mountain.

Tenders were first put forward just before Easter, but were rejected by the Commission as unsatisfactory. Yesterday, however, it approved a "significantly higher" offer.

● Sale condemned: The deal was condemned last night by the United Kingdom Provision Trade Federation (John Young writes).

It said the decision highlighted again the desperate position of the Commission as a result of member states' failure to face reality.

The cost to EEC taxpayers of putting butter into store was about 90p a pound, it said.

The Ministry of Agriculture confirmed last night that the deal had been agreed at £1,292 a tonne, which would amount an export subsidy of £1,042 a tonne.

● BREST: The French Agriculture Minister, M Francois Guillaume, yesterday told the main farm union that France could no longer accept a quota system allowing New Zealand to export butter to the EEC. The quotas were intolerable for struggling French producers (Reuter reports).

Waldheim rebuke to Austrians

From Frank Johnson, Vienna

Dr Kurt Waldheim said here last night that there was no doubt that the "campaign of defamation against me" had its origins in Austria.

Dr Waldheim, the Conservative-supported candidate in the Austrian presidential election on May 4, was speaking in a tense television debate with his Socialist opponent, Dr Kurt Steyrer.

The debate was dominated by the accusations that Dr Waldheim took part in, or had direct knowledge of, massacres and deportations in Yugoslavia and Greece during the Second World War.

At the claim that the accusations originated in Austria itself, Dr Steyrer said he was "tired" of the implication that the Socialist Party was behind the campaign against Dr Waldheim's honour. He challenged Dr Waldheim to name those Austrians whom he believed to be responsible. Dr Waldheim replied that he knew the names of individuals, but was not prepared to disclose them.

One of the three journalists putting questions to the candidates asked them, as members of the war generation, to say when each knew of the extermination of the Jews. Dr Steyrer replied that he began to realize it in 1942-43.

He knew nothing of it when at the front, where he emphasized he served only as a medical doctor, but realized it on leave when he learned of Jews in Austria disappearing. Dr Waldheim commented: "I am glad you said that." He added that this was consistent with his own experience.

One of the panel asked Dr Waldheim why he had frequently said that he had merely done his duty during

Madrid recalls envoy after threats

Madrid — Spain's Foreign Ministry has recalled its ambassador to Libya after threats to his life.

The same diplomat also ordered Arab "reactionary regimes" — in other words, pro-American Arab governments — to support Libya. This was intended particularly to highlight the Gulf States which, while regarding Colonel Gaddafi with intense dislike, are far more concerned about Iranian military adventures against Iraq than about Libya. Syria is Iran's principal Arab ally.

In Libya, a few hundred Americans and up to 5,000

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Italy keeps its cool over the lethal wine

Rome — Signor Filippo Pandolfi, the Italian Minister of Agriculture, feels that the worst is now over after Cabinet last night approved his plans to combat lethal adulteration of wines (Peter Nicholas writes).

The government decree, in the wake of 20 deaths from drinking north Italian wines reinforced with methyl alcohol, reflects his attitude.

The measure does no more than increase penalties for adulteration, while bringing into force a Bill before Parliament for more than a year giving the Ministry of Agriculture more inspectors.

Representatives of local government are also called on to take preventive measures "in order to overcome the inertia which at times has been evident".

Barre switch helps Chirac win confidence vote

From Diane Goides, Paris

M Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist Prime Minister of France, was a vote of confidence in his Government's programme in the small hours of yesterday morning, albeit only by seven votes.

All but one of the 35 extreme-right National Front deputies voted against the Government, but all the other right-wing deputies, including M Raymond Barre and his supporters, voted in favour of the confidence motion. The vote taken at 4.30 am was 292 against 285, with no abstentions.

M Barre, one of the three main leaders of the right, repeated time and again during the recent election campaign that he would never support a vote of confidence in any right-wing Government which agreed to "collaborate" with a left-wing President. At one point he even threatened to vote in favour of a confidence motion against such a Government.

His implacable stand was not received in the Assembly at large, however, and his popularity rating has recently

Paris response pleases Lange

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But it also complained that the Government should do more about the problem of immigration, the fall in the birth rate, law and order, excessive bureaucracy and

Likud less hostile now to Cabinet reshuffle

The Likud Party in Israel took an unexpected turn in their attitude towards a reshuffle of the cabinet yesterday when they agreed to support the reshuffle.

The Likud Party, which has been in power since the 1977 elections, had been hostile to the reshuffle for several weeks. The party's leader, Mr Menachem Begin, had said that the reshuffle would be a "betrayal" of the party's principles.

The reshuffle would mean the resignation of Mr Yitzhak Mordechai, Foreign Minister, and the appointment of Mr Shimon Peres as Foreign Minister.

US urged to halt military business aid

Washington — The US Civil Rights Commission has urged the US Government to consider a halt to military business aid to South Africa.

The commission's report calls for the suspension of federal payments to South African military and police forces. It says that such aid is helping to maintain the apartheid system.

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Slabbert vows to combat apartheid with the people

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, former liberal opposition leader in the South African Parliament, made his first important political appearance here on Wednesday night since resigning in February as leader of the Progressive Federal Party (PFP).

He told nearly 1,000 people of all races packed into the Johannesburg Town Hall that he was still an "apprentice" in extra-parliamentary politics, but he believed that the debate about South Africa's future would now be conducted outside Parliament. He wanted to be part of it.

Only when the ban on organizations like the African National Congress (ANC) was lifted and political prisoners released would "the possibility begin to exist for negotiations with the real leaders of the country", he declared.

The meeting was organized by the multiracial United Democratic Front (UDF), and Dr Slabbert spoke in front of a huge banner urging whites to join. The organization claims about a million members and shares the political aims of the outlawed ANC.

Dr Slabbert has not yet joined the UDF, though he seems to be moving in that direction. Opposing apartheid from within Parliament was an honourable tradition, he said, but "protesting against apartheid was not the same as changing it".

Johannesburg City Council refused permission for the meeting in the Town Hall chamber, and it was held in a small upstairs room. Many people who could not get in spilled out into the street.

There were jeers and cries of "get out, get out" when police tried to warn of a bomb scare. The crowd considered the warning a police hoax.

Meanwhile, as widespread violence continued, police shot dead a black man early yesterday when they surprised a group preparing to throw petrol bombs at a white high school in Randfontein, east of Johannesburg.

Residents of the Winterveld shanty town 20 miles northwest of Pretoria claimed that three black youths were shot dead on Wednesday by police of the Bophuthatswana tribal "homeland".

Minister accuses Suzman of sabotage

Cape Town (Reuter) - A South African Cabinet minister denounced a leading newspaper in a stormy parliamentary debate yesterday, and another caused a partial opposition walkout when he called the veteran anti-apartheid campaigner, Mrs Helen Suzman, a "saboteur of the police".

The Law and Order Minister, Mr Louis Le Grange, accused the Cape Times of being a mouthpiece of the banned African National Congress (ANC).

As Mr Le Grange made a hardline speech in defence of the police, who have been accused of using excessive force in black townships, the National (white) Education Minister, Mr F.W. de Klerk, interrupted to make his accusation against Mrs Suzman, a member of the opposition Progressive Federal Party (PFP).

When the chairman of the house ruled that "sabotage" was not an unparliamentary term, almost all the white liberal Opposition members walked out.

Mr Le Grange accused the Cape Times of "biased and slanted attacks on the Government", and said that unless it changed its tone it would share the fate of the Rand Daily Mail, a Johannesburg daily closed down as unprofitable last year.



The Statue of Liberty holds a new torch after being given a facelift before her centenary celebrations on July 4.

Problems of the Lone Star state Party is over as oil slump forces painful austerity

From Trevor Fishlock, Houston

Texas and its oil state neighbours feel left out of the fun. All over America people are filling up with cheap petrol. It is selling for as little as 70 cents a gallon (about 56p a British gallon) and in an exuberant publicity splash one garage was selling 10 gallons for 1 cent.

Gas-guzzling guilt has vanished, and what with cheap fuel at home and terrorism abroad, many Americans are planning motoring holidays in their own country. It's just like the old, pre-oil scare days.

The astonishing fall in oil prices, from \$28 to \$12 a barrel in three months, makes petrol as cheap in Texas as anywhere in America. But that is little consolation in Texas, or in Louisiana and Oklahoma, all of which have been hard hit by the slump.

For these three states the party is over. Hard-pressed oil businesses and banks are dumping people like sand from sagging balloons. This week Tenecco, Houston's second largest company, laid off another 500 people in the city. Houston took it with the resigned air of a community used to such blows and expecting more.

There is concern about bank losses and fear of the collapses of banks which roped them-

selves too tightly to energy and property. Out on the Texas prairie many farmers are in crisis. Hundreds are broke and furious. Economists cannot agree. One school argues that cheap oil is a sure creator of wealth and jobs. Another warns that damage to a state as economically significant as Texas, and to banks which have a large stake in oil, is potentially dangerous for the country.

Many Texans, traditionally believers in market forces, are demanding the shield of top-tax.

The crash makes Texas look soberly towards its future. There is an edge of remorse to the hangover, a wish that something had been set aside in better times.

Texas has always been devoted to "let her rip" wide open business ideas. It has succeeded without much planning.

Texas has deplored and resisted government interference, although the fact is that Texas has done well from government initiatives. It has both raised its fist and held out its hand. Because of its sink-or-swim philosophy, it provides one of the lowest levels of public services in America. It prides itself on having no state income tax.

But money has to come from somewhere. Will Tex. be taxed? You can be run out of town for suggesting it, but it could come to that. At 150, it might be said, Texas is emerging with some pain from freewheeling adolescence.

There have always been tough times, but this particularly severe period is likely to mould a sobered, more realistic, more mature Texas.

barrel of oil, which is pretty well half-price.

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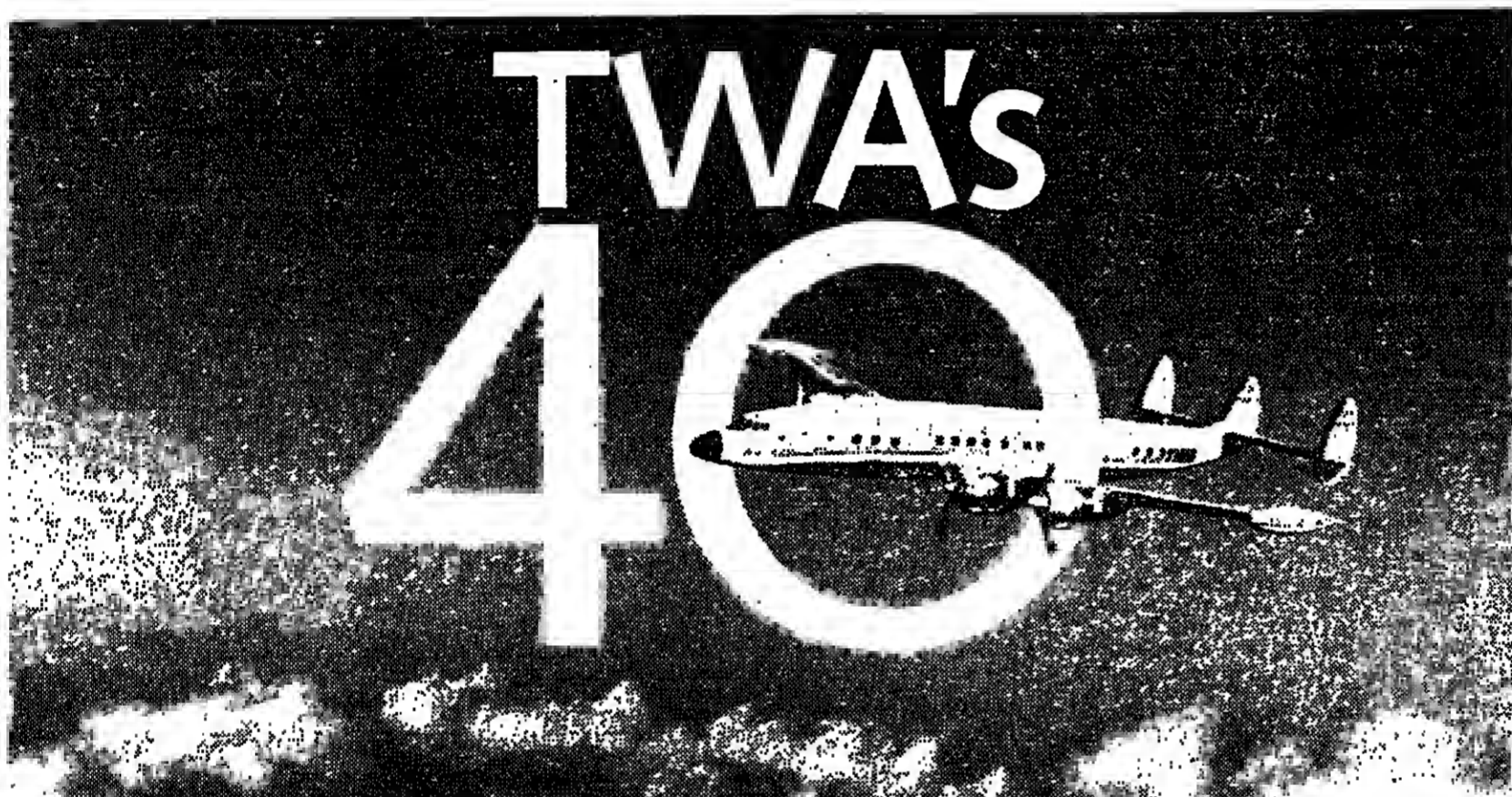
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Leading the way to the USA



Last-ditch wage deal in Sweden

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

The so-called Swedish model of highly-centralized wage negotiations, badly battered in recent years, lived to fight another day yesterday when a new bout of industrial action was avoided at the last minute.

A pay agreement, signed less than two hours before a strike of white collar workers was due to start, also averted the first serious domestic test of the abilities of Sweden's new Prime Minister, Mr Ingvar Carlsson, who took over after the murder of Mr Olof Palme on February 28.

While ministers welcomed the deal for avoiding damaging industrial action, however, sources close to the Finance Minister, Mr Kjell-Olof Feldt, expressed grave doubts about Sweden's ability to preserve its competitiveness after such a settlement.

Generally, however, there was a feeling of relief as the Swedish Employers' Confederation, SAF, shook hands with the bargaining organization, PTK, on a two-year deal that will give white collar workers in private industry about 5.5 per cent more from April 1 this year, and another 4 per cent increase from January 1 next year. They will also get a lump sum of £60.

An 18-year-old white collar worker in private industry in Sweden will now earn at least £555 a month this year and £585 next year.

The chairman of the PTK, Mr Bertil Blomqvist, promptly called off the strike of 18,000 key workers which had been due to start at 1.00 pm BST yesterday. The SAF chairman, Mr Olof Ljunggren, called off today's proposed lock-out of 300,000 workers.

Gun lobby wins half its battle

From Mphahlele, Washington

The House of Representatives yesterday voted 292-136 to ease several restrictions of the 1968 Gun Control Act.

But after an emotional debate the Democrat-controlled House maintained an 18-year-old ban on interstate handgun sales.

The Bill now goes to the Republican-majority Senate which last year approved a similar measure. Senators can accept the House Bill or send the issue to a Senate-House conference to iron out the differences.

The vote yesterday followed intense lobbying by the powerful National Rifle Association (NRA) and rival handgun control advocates.

Both sides in the gun control controversy can claim a measure of victory. The NRA won the right to have firearms transported between states and an easing of record keeping requirements for gun dealers.

The handgun control groups won a vote for retention of an interstate handgun sales ban, although the ban on interstate rifle and shotgun sales would be lifted. They also won an amendment to prohibit possession of machine guns.

Passage of the Bill means that Congress is certain to make the first major changes in the 1968 gun control law passed after the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy.

Bonn lectures Chun over human rights

Bonn (Reuter) - President Richard von Weizsacker of West Germany yesterday criticised South Korea's human rights record and urged President Chun Doo Hwan to give the opposition "a fair chance" to express its views.

"Our people have a keen instinct... for the respect for human rights and basic freedoms for all," he told the South Korean leader at a luncheon in his honour.

President Chun, arrived from London yesterday on the second leg of a 10-day European tour.

Zimbabwe condemns 6,000 park elephants

From Jan Raath, Harare

Zimbabwe's wildlife authorities will shoot up to 6,000 elephants in the country's national parks over the next 12 months to prevent them destroying the areas.

Dr David Cumming, the chief ecologist at the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management, said yesterday that culling was "the only way" to check the already severely damaged woodland areas.

The elephant's capacity to destroy lies not only in its voracious appetite, but also in its habit of smashing down

trees while eating an inch, for example. Zimbabwe's national parks can support 35,000 elephants but a recent estimate put the population at 41,500.

The year's cull will include shooting 3,000 elephants in the Zambesi Valley and 1,000 in the Gonarezhou Reserve. Some 2,000 may also be destroyed in the Hwange National Park, formerly the Wankie National Park.

Zimbabwe's national parks policy holds that failure to cull will eventually not only wipe out elephants but other species as well.

*Airplan, American Express, Jetways, North American Travel and Premier

Handwritten note: "الرجاء ان يكون هذا الملف..."

هذه امثلة للاصل

Estate agents lay bare vast Marcos property investment in America

Manila (Reuters) - The Philippines now has a valid claim to New York property worth more than \$300 million (£205 million) after two estate agents told the US Congress that they had bought and managed the buildings for the former President Ferdinand Marcos, a senior Government official said yesterday.

Mr Raul Daza, a member of a commission tracking down the wealth of the former Philippines' leader, said that Manila expected to recover the properties without difficulty after the testimony of two New York estate agents, Joseph and Ralph Bernstein.

They told a US congressional sub-committee on Wednesday that they had acquired and managed property worth more than \$300 million for the Marcoses.

Mr Marcos has repeatedly denied having US real estate holdings.

But the Bernstein brothers said that they had been involved with the Marcoses in four Manhattan properties—a shopping mall called the Herald Centre, and office buildings at 40 Wall Street, 200 Madison Avenue and the Crown Building.

Mr Joseph Bernstein described meetings at which the couple made decisions and

exercised control over the properties. In Manila in 1982 Mr Marcos expressed keen interest in the international tax aspects of New York real estate investment.

He wanted to ensure that a corporation established to buy property was structured so as to avoid paying tax.

Mr Bernstein described a dinner at a New York restaurant during which Mrs Imelda Marcos waved a bank statement and boasted of a Swiss account worth \$120 million.

He also supported evidence from a previous witness that she had wanted to get \$70 million out of the properties by 1987. "She said they needed the money for the 1987 election in the Philippines," he told the sub-committee.

"The Philippines has a valid claim to the property," Mr Daza said. "We are pleased with the testimonies of the Bernstein brothers. They made the work of the commission undertaken by our lawyers in the US less difficult."

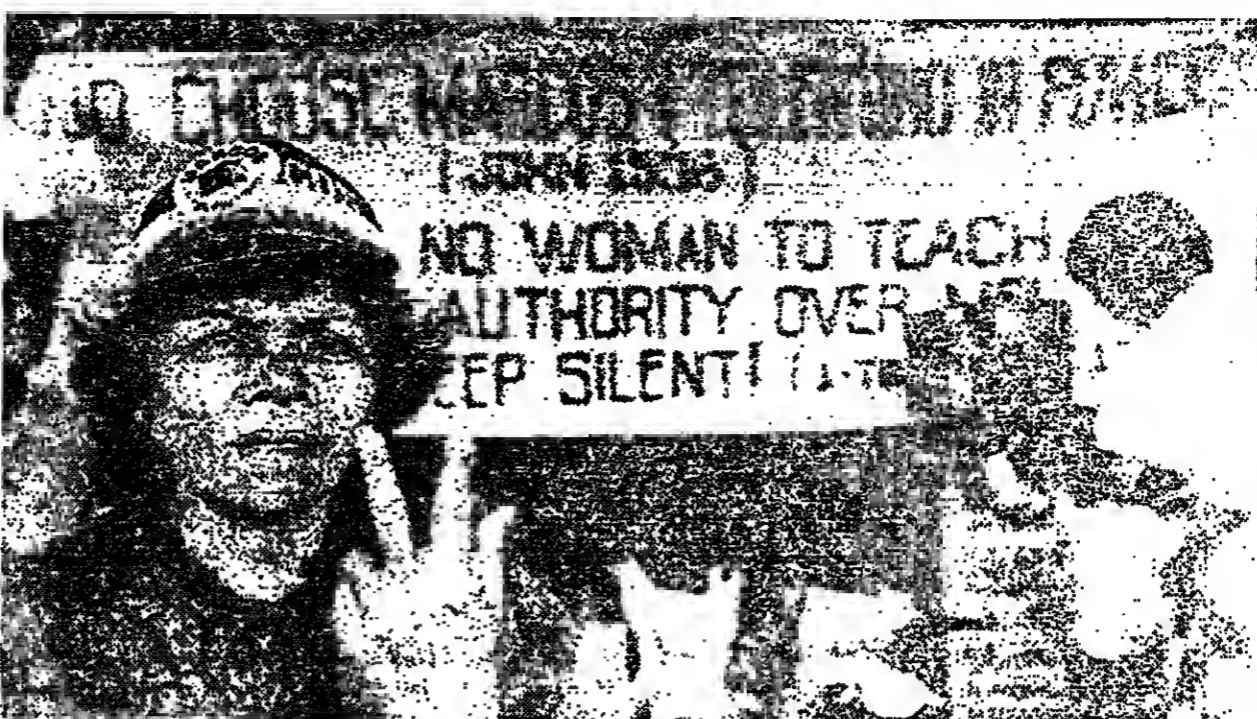
Minister's wealth: The new Philippine Tourism Minister, Mr José Antonio Gónzales, who made much of his fortune selling women's underwear, has emerged as the wealthiest so far among President

Corazon Aquino's Cabinet members to disclose their assets. He is worth 81.49 million pesos (about £2.7 million), according to a statement of assets released by the Presidential Palace (AFP reports).

GENEVA: Several Swiss banks have confirmed that they hold assets connected with Mr Marcos, the Federal Banking Commission said yesterday (Alan McGregor writes). Its spokesman, Mr Romain Marti, declined to give the number, and said that the banks were not yet required to specify amounts.

The commission, whose seven members are appointed by the Swiss Government, spent most of its meeting yesterday discussing funds in the name of Mr and Mrs Marcos "or anyone closely associated with them". A special meeting devoted solely to the subject is in prospect.

The haoks had until Wednesday to notify the commission of their holdings. Their next deadline is April 16, by when they must confirm their compliance with the freeze on the assets ordered by the Government on March 25. Philippines estimates of the total assets involved range up to \$3 billion (about £2.05 billion).



The Marcos victory signal from a woman supporter in Manila who joined others to defied a threatened radio commoetator.

Australia to double migrant intake

From Tony Dabosin Melbourne

Australia is to almost double its intake of migrants over the next decade.

The Cabinet has agreed to a proposal by Mr Chris Hurford, Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, to take an extra 11,000 migrants in the next financial year, bringing the total up to 95,000. The Government has also adopted in principle a long-term plan to return immigra-

tion to its post-war boom level of between 160,000 and 170,000 people a year.

The 1986/87 policy will contain a new category — the independent and concessional category — which will provide easier access for prospective migrants who have relatives in Australia or those who would be financially independent.

The new category will increase eligible migrants by extending the definition of the family to include such rela-

tives as nephews and nieces.

Applicants under this new category will be assessed on their employability and likely contribution to Australia. It is expected that 25,000 people will be approved under the new heading in the next financial year, an increase of about 9,000.

It is not clear who will benefit from the new definition, but recent arrivals, such as the Iodo-Chinese, with a tradition of extended families, could gain most.

The new immigration policy represents a victory for Mr Hurford, who had been arguing for some time that increased migration would benefit the economy.

It is understood that the Cabinet has not yet decided on the mix of migrants for its long-term plan. There has been criticism in recent years that it has increasingly turned away from Australia's traditional migrant sources.

The new immigration policy represents a victory for Mr Hurford, who had been arguing for some time that increased migration would benefit the economy.

Japan will switch satellites to Ariane

Tokyo (Reuters) - Two Japanese companies said yesterday that they would use Europe's Ariane system to launch their satellites instead of the US space shuttle.

The Space Communications Corporation and the Japan Communications Satellite Company said they had reserved places for 1988.

The companies originally had intended to use the shuttle, but said that the loss of Challenger in January had cast doubt on those plans.

M Frederic d'Allest, the chairman of Arianespace, said he hoped to sign final contracts with the Japanese in the next few weeks.

He denied that Arianespace was trying to take advantage of the Challenger disaster to win a larger share of the market, which he estimated would launch 110 to 120 satellites between 1988 and 1992.

"Before this accident our company, on its own merit and with tough competition, had a 50 per cent share of the market in the Western world," he said. "We are confident the US industry has all the capability needed to recover."

He reiterated European complaints that NASA set unfair prices for shuttle launches which did not fully cover costs involved.

\$4m shops spree of Marcos women

From Keith Dalton, Manila

Mrs Imelda Marcos, the former Philippines first lady, and her two daughters spent \$4.4 m in a three-month shopping spree in 1983, collecting jewellery, art objects, sheets and silverware, according to a Manila newspaper.

"The legendary extravagance of Mrs Marcos apparently rubbed off on her two daughters, Imee Monotec and Irene Araneta," the *Malaya* paper said yesterday.

But the daughters — who, with their husbands and children, joined the former president Ferdinand Marcos and Mrs Marcos in exile in Hawaii — could not match their mother's impulse purchase of a \$280,000 emerald necklace, it says.

But they gave her stiff competition in buying sprees in London, New York, Copenhagen and Rome. The paper quotes receipts and cheque stubs found in the luggage Mr Marcos took with him into exile on February 25. "They

were clients of prestigious jewellery shops, a number of them known only to the exclusive circle of the filthy rich and the royal blood," *Malaya's* front-page article says.

"For one day alone, on May 25, Imelda Marcos spent \$20,000....

"Not to be outdone, elder daughter Imee splurged \$43,591 on the same day in other stores.

"Younger daughter Irene's purchases were... less than her sister's. Her May 25 shopping bill was \$42,246."

Mrs Marcos spent \$280,000 on a diamond bracelet at one store on July 15 and five days later, at another, bought a \$280,000 emerald necklace, the paper says. It has gained access to more than 2,300 pages of documents seized by customs officials in Hawaii.

The shopping receipts cover May to July 1983.

President Corason Aquino has said she would forgive Mr Marcos if he returned the estimated \$10 bn (£6.7 billion) he is alleged to have spirited out of the country during his 20-year rule.

The Philippines Commission on Good Government is said to be appraising the value of jewels and other valuables left behind in 20 suitcases by the Marcoses in their flight.

They are now in the vault of the Central Bank after having been taken from the Malacañang palace to a house in a luxury suburb said to be owned by a Marcos loyalist.

There were so many jewels that gemologists took three days to assess their value, the *Bulletin Today* paper said.



Mrs Marcos: \$480,000 spent on jewellery in a week

Aquino to put fate of US bases to a poll

Manila (AP) - President Aquino said yesterday she would ask the people to decide whether United States military bases should stay in the Philippines.

Mrs Aquino told Japanese journalists that she will hold a referendum after renegotiating the military treaty with the US that expires in 1991. She did not say when the negotiations would begin.

Mr Salvador Laurel, the Foreign Minister, told the Council for Foreign Relations,

that the Philippines would observe the treaty and uphold agreements that promote its security while striving for independence in foreign affairs.

Meanwhile, about 60 Communist rebels on the island of Cebu, including their commanders, surrendered to government troops.

A total of 448 people have died in rebel violence nationwide since Mrs Aquino took power, the state-run news service reported.

China patient over special zones' profits

PeKING (Reuters) - China yesterday said it would continue to pour millions of dollars into its special economic zones even though they would not make a profit in foreign exchange for at least three years.

Mr Gu Mu, the State Council member in charge of China's four special zones, told a press conference he was confident that Shenzhen, the largest of the zones near Hong Kong, would make a foreign exchange profit by 1990.

The zones have been set up since 1979 to attract high-technology investment from abroad and produce exports, but many of their goods have been sold to the domestic market.

Mr Gu said 43 per cent of Shenzhen's industrial output last year was exported, up from 33 per cent in 1984.

The four zones, all of them in south China, attracted \$5.85 billion (£4 billion) in foreign investment last year, more than double the 1984 level, he added.

Tokyo's rail hold-ups lead to apologies

Tokyo - Private rail and bus companies went on strike for about an hour in Tokyo yesterday, the first time in five years that private transport workers had left their jobs (David Watts writes).

For the nine companies involved, services began not at 5 am but about an hour later than usual. This modest breach of service was a severe embarrassment to management and apologetic were broadcast to travellers by train guards.

The dispute was quickly settled with a salary increase of 12,500 yen (£47.50) per month and a minimal bonus increase, reflecting the poorer outlook for the economy.

The settlement is likely to affect other industries. Already the steel and electrical appliance industries have made the smallest wage agreements in 10 years, prompted largely by the strength of the yen, which is forcing Japanese firms to raise prices abroad and thus dampen exports.

Japan had 4,480 strikes in 1984.



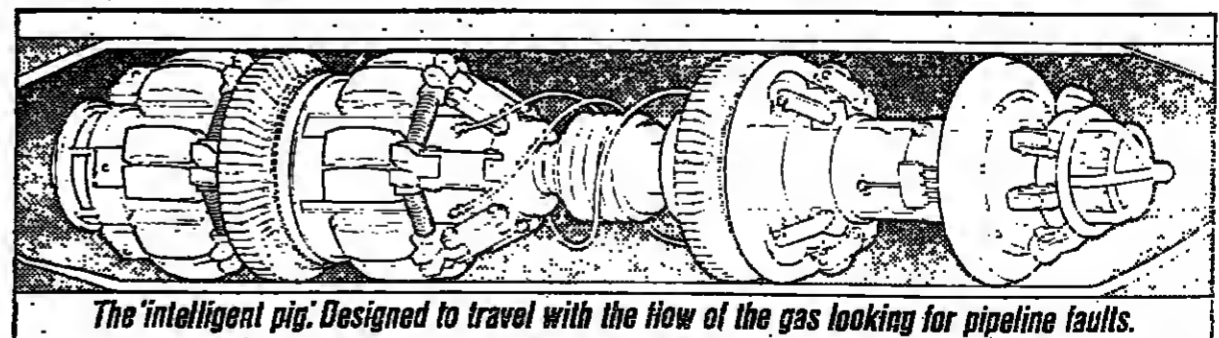
President Corason Aquino

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SPECTRUM

For many years, the spectacular pioneer missions of the early Russian astronauts were deeply shrouded in mystery. As these heroes retire the secrecy lessens. Twenty-five years after the first manned flight, Keith Hindley sifts through the latest evidence



Secrets of the space race

On April 12, 1961, space travel began when the Soviet Union launched Yuri Gagarin into earth orbit in his Vostok capsule. Gagarin's flight followed a series of spectacular Soviet successes in space — Sputnik, the first artificial earth satellite, the first dog in space and the first space craft to photograph the moon's hidden side.

More triumphs followed and in the eight years up to 1965, it seemed that whatever the American engineers planned, their Russian counterparts beat them every time. While the Americans struggled to perfect quirky rockets that could launch very modest payloads, the Russians threw tonne-sized spacecraft into orbit with a precision that brought two of them within a few miles of each other.

What made the Soviet successes all the more fascinating was the complete secrecy surrounding them. Little information leaked out about the powerful Russian launchers or the masterminds behind them, especially the legendary "chief designer" as he was always called.

In reality, the Russian successes were based on one brilliant rocket design masterminded by one man, Sergei Pavlovich Korolev was a Ukrainian, a trained aeronautical engineer and a pilot. Arrested during a Stalinist purge in 1937, he was taken into a team developing military rockets after the war.

Korolev was tough, daring, blunt and cunning. An able organizer, he had tireless energy and quickly mastered the art of exploiting the Soviet political system. His great chance came when the military wanted a missile capable of delivering atomic weapons to targets on the east coast of the United States. Early Soviet nuclear bombs weighed over two tonnes and were very

bulky. They would require a powerful launcher that could develop more than a million pounds of thrust. Khrushchev was persuaded to provide an immense budget and R-7 or Semyorka ("old number seven") was born along with a new missile test range begun in June 1955.

The first Semyorka exploded on launch in May 1957 as did several more. At last, on August 3, a launch worked perfectly. To convince a sceptical world that the Soviet Union now possessed a nuclear armed intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), Korolev suggested a demonstration of its power by using it to launch the first artificial earth satellite.

The following month was



Mastermind: Korolev was the mystery man behind the Russians' successes

the 100th anniversary of the birth of Constantin Tsiolkovsky, the Russian rocket pioneer and Khrushchev recognized the propaganda value. It took Korolev six weeks to lash together a test satellite containing just a radio transmitter linked to a thermometer. Sputnik I went up in October and stunned the world. The space race had begun and Korolev drew up a list of more ambitious space launches and the money for them was promised. Much heavier satellites

packed with scientific instruments followed and the first dog was put into orbit. A small rocket was added as an upper stage and after six months of failures satellites were despatched to the moon.

Khrushchev revelled in each success, often using them to consolidate his political position at home and to create a sensation during visits abroad. By 1960, he began to interfere with Korolev's plans in a serious way. Just as Soviet engineers were about to consolidate information from a new development by launching more craft of the same kind, Khrushchev would cancel subsequent flights and demand something new. He had no real interest in space research, but saw it simply as a propaganda tool to demonstrate Soviet technological superiority. He closed a secrecy net around the programme and wouldn't even allow "the chief designer" to be named.

Meanwhile, the United States was overcoming its early booster failures and launching a long series of scientific satellites for pure research.

In October 1960, a brief launch opportunity occurred to dispatch a space craft to Mars with the minimum expenditure of energy. With Khrushchev visiting the United Nations that week something was expected. In fact, two attempts were made to launch Mars craft during Khrushchev's visit but both failed. He was not pleased.

On the final launch attempt on October 23 1960, the countdown went to zero but nothing happened. After a long wait, the head of the Soviet military missile programme, Marshal Nedelin, threw the safety book out of the window and ordered the launch staff on to the pad without the precaution of draining fuel and shutting the



Blast off: Vostok rocket launch in the 1970s. The Russians have kept this highly reliable system since Yuri Gagarin (top left) made his historic orbit in an earlier model.

rocket down safely. As the launch pad swarmed with people, the rocket suddenly lit up, rose a few feet and then exploded. Perhaps 50 died, including 30 skilled engineers and technicians and Nedelin himself. Korolev was in the launch bunker and escaped unharmed.

Meanwhile military pilots were under training as cosmonauts for the first manned space flight. The Vostok one-man capsules were being built and tested in unmanned flights. After two failed at-

tempts success came at last in August 1960 when two dogs were orbited and returned safely. Animals and craft were lost in more tests, but after rebuilding the remaining Vostok capsule, two completely successful flights with animals were made in March 1961.

Soviet doctors decided that the first manned flight should be run by automatic pilot in case the cosmonaut was incapacitated, but the men objected. Eventually the controls were locked off and the combi-

GIANT LEAPS FOR MANKIND

1961: April 12, Vostok 1, Yuri Gagarin first man in space; May 5, Freedom 7, Alan Shepard first American in space.
1962: February 20, Friendship 7, John Glenn first American in orbit.
1963: June 16, Vostok 6, Valentina Tereshkova first woman in space.
1965: March 18, Voskhod 2, Alexei Leonov first space walk; June 8, Gemini 4, Edward White first US walk.
1968: July 19, Apollo 11, Neil

Armstrong is first man on the moon.
1971: April 19, Saljut 1 is first space station; June 6, Three killed leaving Saljut 1.
1973: May 25, Skylab 1 is first US space station; November 18, Skylab 4 becomes longest US space mission, 84 days.
1975: July 15, Apollo-Soyuz link-up of US and Soviet space craft.
1981: April 12, First flight of Space Shuttle Columbia.
1983: June 18, Space Shuttle

Challenger, Sally Ride first US woman in space; November 28, First flight of European space lab.
1984: February 3, Soyuz T10-Salyut 7, Record space flight, 227 days.
1985: April 12, Space Shuttle Discovery, Edwin Garn first politician in space.
1986: January 28, Space Shuttle Challenger explodes killing crew of seven; February 20, Mirspace lab launch heralds space station.

nation (one-four-five for Gagarin) placed in an envelope stuck on the cabin wall. In the event Gagarin was a passenger all the way.

The Vostok craft carried an ejector seat to allow the pilot to escape if the booster failed on launch. Retro-rockets to return the man to earth were fired by remote control from the ground and the spherical Vostok capsule automatically bobbed around to expose its heavy side on re-entry. Gagarin ejected at 22,000 feet and floated down by parachute — a fact that presented problems for the international aeronautical authority, the FAI. They declared that they could only recognize the record if Gagarin took off and landed inside his spacecraft. After a long argument, the records were recognized.

Khrushchev again demanded new feats. Gagarin's trip was followed by a day-long flight by Gherman Titov. In 1962, two cosmonauts, Nikoloyev and Popovich, were orbited at the same time, passing within a few miles of each other. Just over a year later, the world was stunned again to hear of two more cosmonauts in space at the same time, Bykovsky and the first woman in space, Valentina Tereshkova. Once again it was Khrushchev's idea to send a woman into space and he demanded an ordinary Russian. Tereshkova was a millworker chosen from a group of four women hastily trained for the flight.

Meanwhile American pride was salvaged by two brief hops into space by Mercury astronauts in 1961. John Glenn finally made the first US orbital flight 10 months after Gagarin. Three more Mercury flights followed and the Americans geared themselves up for their two-man Gemini and three-man Apollo space craft and a commitment to a moon landing by 1969.

Again Khrushchev demanded a spectacle to eclipse the start of the Gemini programme. The three-man Soyuz capsule would not be ready for at least two years but Korolev was told to put three Russians in orbit within a year and to arrange a walk in space. Work on the Soyuz capsule was halted and the Vostok capsule was stripped. The cosmonauts had to stay with their capsule on landing and normally the thump down would have killed them. To make the landing survivable a small rocket was fitted to fire a few feet above the ground to deaden the impact. The Voskhod craft was born. The result was a surprise three-man flight in October 1964

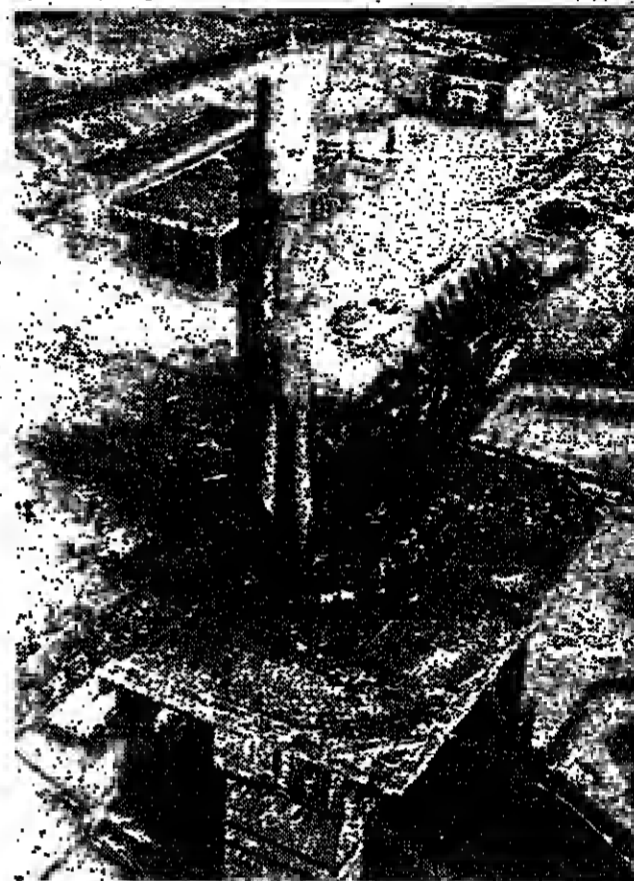
Five months later, a second Voskhod carried two men aloft with an air lock. Alexei Leonov became the first man to leave his space craft and walk in space. But not everything went according to plan. After a brief spell outside Leonov found his suit so puffed out that he could not bend enough at the waist to get his feet back in. After lengthy struggles he bled air from the suit, risking the "bends".

Voskhod 2's troubles were only just starting. The automatic pilot failed and the craft came down on a mountain side in the Urals some 2,000 miles from the planned site.

The Voskhod flights were the most dangerous space flights ever undertaken. The cosmonauts took enormous risks but they were lucky. By

There is no longer any doubt that the Russians really were aiming for the moon. The lander was under development but never flew. But two unmanned Soyuz capsules did make trial flights out to the moon and back just prior to the famous Apollo 8 Christmas moon trip in 1968. The whole programme was dropped by the Russians when it became clear that Apollo would beat them to it, but the big lie that they were never in the race at all was widely accepted.

It is clear that the search for funding has shaped both programmes. Both grew out of military interests with the Russians first following a spectacular course dictated by the political expediency, which gave way to more steady



Soyuz 28 atop its Vostok booster on the launch platform at Baikonur cosmodrome in central Asia, where all manned space flights began. It was launched on March 2, 1978.

development. In contrast, the Americans were forced to proceed with spectacular projects that would attract congressional funding — the moon landing, Skylab, the space shuttle and now the space laboratory.

At the time of Gagarin's flight 25 years ago, the two programmes were neck and neck. The Americans pulled ahead with the moon landings but there is now no doubt who has the upper hand. For the moment, it's the Russians. © Times Newspapers Ltd 1986

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Glowing in the wind

Prefacing the preliminaries of this year's BBC Young Musician of the Year competition, to be screened next Monday (BBC2, 6pm) is a short documentary on the previous winner, the young English clarinettist Emma Johnson, who at the tender age of 17 caught the public imagination with a stunning performance of Crussell's Clarinet Concerto No 2.

The documentary was filmed at the recording sessions for Miss Johnson's second record to show what can be achieved by the winner of the competition.

It would be surprising, however, if this year's recipient could match the extraordinary success of the teenager from Orpington, who in less than two years has established herself as something of a star. She has managed to do what

orchestras in this country and in Europe; and given a live Eurovision broadcast to an audience of 20 million under the baton of Yehudi Menuhin. She has also performed before the Queen in a televised performance, survived a *Wogan* appearance, as well as establishing herself almost as a regular on BBC's *Pebble Mill at One*. And all this while studying English at Cambridge University.

How has she done it? Leading clarinettist Jack Bryner, who has watched her progress as well as helping and advising her on occasions, said: "She has an ability to really communicate music to others". But he added: "Her main quality is her self-possession and inner calm which enables her to perform better when the red light goes on."

Although she is firmly committed to the life of a soloist, she is determined to finish her degree. She is also serious about extending her musical range. Michael Berkeley, Carl Davis and John Dankworth have all written works for her, and she admits to having more than an eye to the kind of cross-over career, mixing popular with classical music, that flautist James Galway manages so well.

"Menuhin gave me a lot of help", she acknowledges. "He gave me the confidence to play how I want to play and be what I want to be, rather than what teachers say I should do."

She does not know whether the astonishing solo career will last, but she is not worried. "I want to play more chamber music — I am playing Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time in Finland — and I know that some of the best things ever written for the clarinet are in orchestral works."

Nicolas Soames

CONCISE CROSSWORD No 922

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32	33	34	35

ACROSS

- Outranks (6)
- Follow rules (5)
- Route (3)
- Penetrate (6)
- Flower fluid (6)
- Friend (4)
- Liable to sin (8)
- Agree (6)
- Institutional resident (6)
- Obsessed with detail (8)
- Large bag (4)
- Country property (6)
- Joined together (6)
- Doze off (3)
- Warmed up (6)
- Strongly advise (6)

DOWN

- Lift up (5)
- Stupid (7)
- Brush (7)
- Sceptic (5)
- Arabian coffee (5)
- Pamphlet (7)
- Tin (3)
- Supervise (7)
- Vase (3)
- Take in (7)
- Liberator (7)
- Separate (5)
- Tendency (5)
- Distinct (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 921

ACROSS: 8 Transgression 9 Odd 10 Theoriser 11 Glebe 13 Scrump 16 Delames 19 Chart 22 Pockmarks 24 Far 25 Completion

DOWN: 1 Strong 2 Dangle 3 Isotherm 4 Creeps 5 User 6 Lissom 7 Energy 12 Lie 14 Rickshaw 15 Per 16 Deput 17 Facing 18 Scrape 20 Affair 21 Through 23 Meek

THE TIMES

SATURDAY

The weekend starts here

Disney musicals?

The rise of the British musical has produced everything short of an autobiographical hit called *How To Succeed On Broadway Without Being American*. The home of song and dance leans on UK imports and American producers flock to London, which is half full of musicals. But Sheridan Morley questions the quality and sounds a warning bell from the wings

Crossword revelation
Easter jumbo winners

Capitalist Bandit
Levin in Hungary

Portfolio

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Rich pickings in the pocket

British children get a total of £600 million every year in pocket money. Lee Rodwell examines the figures — and the principle

How much pocket money do you give your children? Fifty pence a week, a pound — or even more? According to the *Wall's Pocket Money Monitor*, compiled by Gallup, Britain's 10 million five to 16 year-olds get around £600 million a year in pocket money, an average of £1.17 a week.

Before you rush to hide this page from your offspring it should be added that age makes a difference: five to seven-year-olds get an average 54p a week; eight to ten-year-olds £1.11 to 13-year-olds £1.42 and 14 to 16-year-olds £1.98. It is also worth pointing out that there are regional differences (children in Scotland getting the most and children in Wales and the South West getting the least) and, despite the movement for equality for women, girls still average less than boys.

Now whether these figures make you feel niggardly or munificent it is worth keeping them at your fingertips for the next few weeks because the whole topic of pocket money is about to be raised by a six-part children's series on Channel 4 called *The Pocket Money Programme*.

The series — written by Alastair Pirrie and Maggie Drummond — takes a lively look at a range of topics from banks to BMX bikes, inflation to monster movies and, along the way, suggests ways of saving pocket money or spending it wisely. But the one thing it doesn't do is question the concept of giving pocket money.

Maggie Drummond, a financial journalist who has two children of her own, admits that the concept of pocket money can be a difficult one. "You have to ask yourself what you are giving them pocket money for. People are strange when it comes to money — some find it almost as hard to talk to their children about money as about sex. And no mother likes to admit that her offspring spend all their money on sweets or Transformers.

"But children are very materialistic. They are consumers now and they will be consumers as adults."

"You only have to look at the marketing ploys used by the banks and building societies (who still seem to have the idea that once they've got your custom they will have you for life) to see how much competition there is for their custom."

All very well in theory, but in practice does a weekly hand-out really teach children any useful financial lessons? Pru Krailing is not sure. She has two children, Alexandra, 10 and Thomas, eight.

She says: "I had pocket money as a child and I feel it is an important part of a child's development to learn how to budget, to realise that money doesn't grow on trees and when it's gone it's gone. I started giving pocket money when Alexandra was seven. Although Thomas was only five he got some too, as it didn't seem fair otherwise."

"Everything was fine until Alexandra became friends with a boy whose parents didn't have the same policy. They gave him money when he wanted it."

She explained: "Alexandra would go off to the local shop and spend all her money and then there would be tears because she didn't have any left."

"Alexandra is always saying everyone else gets £1 or more. My answer to that is that when she has shown she can spend it sensibly I will put her pocket money up. But if she is going to spend £1 a week on sweets, that's not good for her or her teeth."

"It is difficult sometimes. When they have a book fair at school it's tempting to give her extra because I approve of books. But I don't, because the principle is the same. And she has missed out on things she really wanted to do because she hasn't had the money."

"She couldn't afford to go to the disco at school because she had spent all her money, even though she knew it was coming up and I had said she must pay for it herself. It seems a harsh lesson, but perhaps it is the only way she will learn."



Called to account: Will Hodgkinson, aged 16, with his pocket-money financed record and poster collection

Another parent who admits she is confused about the whole question of pocket money is Gay Shreim, who has a 16-year-old son Gideoo and two younger children, Jamie, 7, and Daniel, 5.

She says: "Whether having pocket money gives them an idea of the value of money or not I just don't know. I do try to tell them that saving is good and that if they save up rather than spend it all each week they can buy something better. Jamie gets 50p a week and Daniel gets 20 to 30p. If they are given money as presents then it goes into their building society accounts. But with their weekly pocket money it is inevitable that it's going to be spent on sweets or toys."

Gideoo is at Frensham Heights school, in Surrey, where 16-year-old Will Hodgkinson is also a boarder. Will explained the school banking system.

"You come with a cheque — I think the school recommends about £60 — and you pay it in and are given a cheque book. When you want to get some cash out, you get the cheque signed by your housemaster. Before this system I used to have pocket money but I think this works better. You can get large amounts out if you want to — although they can refuse to sign the cheques — but basically you manage your money yourself. There are times when you don't need money so you don't get it out. If you had cash you might spend it anyway."

Of course, if you are foolish and have a wild weekend you are left penniless for the rest of term.

"I use the money for travelling to Loodoo or going home at weekends. I go and see friends or go to concerts, perhaps have a meal out. If I need clothes my parents buy them. If I don't like the clothes they buy, the best plan is to wear them out quickly."

"If I just want something then they make me pay for it. If it's something big I ask for money at birthdays and try not to go out much so I can save. "When I was younger I used to get pocket money. I think it started when I was about five. I used to get 5p for sweets and 10p if I wanted to save it, which I didn't because I only wanted sweets at that age. I think that was fair, though."

Will, as a younger son, probably had pocket money at an earlier age than his older brother. As many parents have found to their cost, it is hard to give one child in the family pocket money and not the others, although most families still seem to operate a system of age differentials. But when should you start giving pocket money — if at all?

As Penelope Leach points out in her book, *The Parents A to Z*: "Most pre-school children cannot understand money as anything but 'treasure'. Try giving your very young child a coin. You will probably find that, if the circumstances allow he will at

once spend it, happily swapping it for that comic but being quite uninterested in either the change or the possibility that he could buy a cheaper comic and a lollipop."

As children get older their attitude to money changes. Once they see other children with money to spend on sweets and toys, they will want money to spend too.

One the other hand, some parents feel you have to start somewhere. Teresa Sienkiewicz, an accountant, has two children aged nine and ten.

She says: "We used to buy things for them — after all, the amounts involved are usually minimal for parents so it's easy to be casual about it. But I felt they had to learn to manage money. Now they each get £1 a week. You cannot stop them spending their money how they want — that is the only way they can learn."

At some point in many families pocket money gives way to an allowance.

Frances Faux hands over the family allowance every month to her daughters Sarah, 17, and Catherine, 15, both still at school. On top of the £28 each a month they earn money at part-time jobs. They also get £1 a week pocket money.

Frances says: "I buy their school shoes and uniform but that is it. They have to pay for things like pocket-up and earrings and all their other clothes. I don't veto their choice — it's their money and the system seems to work."

'My loving parents and adoring husband are mine because of your sacrifice...'

TALKBACK

On March 28 (Friday Page) Dilly Jones described how she gave away her baby son for adoption, and her subsequent mental anguish. A reader, who was herself adopted, responds with a letter to her own mother Dear Mother.

It gives me great pleasure to call you that for the first time in my life. Sadly it must also be the last.

To all intents and purposes we are strangers, but I believe that you and I know better. The "bonding" which doctors are so keen to have us believe occurs at birth I believe starts at conception, but we don't realize this until much later.

It is very difficult for me, in opening my heart to you for the first time, not to give you some clue to my identity, the desire to do so is overwhelming, but I know that for your sake I must not.

I spent my childhood basking in the knowledge that I was special, and indeed, I was one of those pink and gold children with brown hair and soft blonde curls. (All that has long since changed, but I hope I have learnt to make the best of what I have). I was loved and got a little spoilt, never spoiled. Was I happy? I was too busy being a child to wonder. It is only in retrospect that one asks such questions along with the ever changing ideas and philosophies on how children should be brought up.

Eventually, after the usual ups and downs which beset the adolescent, I married. It didn't last and I think I would have been less than human if words such as "if" and "suppose" had not crossed my mind.

The first spark of curiosity about you showed itself six years ago, shortly after I met the man who would become my second husband. It was just before Christmas and I said "I wonder if she ever thinks about me?". My words surprised me. I had not been aware that I had been thinking about you. We talked about you, wondering for a while, and then went on with our lives.

We never know what tricks fate has stored up his sleeve for us. It is probably just as well. The following year I miscarried a tiny scrap of humanity, which had you known us, would have been your grandchild. The memory is still almost too painful to bear, talking about it is almost impossible and the tears flow as I tell you now.

Looking back I realize how very fortunate it was that there was no one in to answer my questions. You see, once again our lives touched, but this time I was you. I know that as I think of you on my birthday, you also think of me. I know that as I cried for my baby you will have wept for me — and I know that much as I would yearn for the day when a stranger would knock on the door and say "Mother", I would live in constant dread of it ever happening.

I pray that since my birth, life has been kind to you. I hope that you have found peace, contentment and fulfilment to whatever you have chosen. The loving parents and adoring husband I have are mine for one reason alone — your sacrifice. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your loving daughter.

POCKET MONEY PROBLEMS

If your child feels hard done by... check with other parents to see how much they give their children and what the money is for. Some parents give money to cover fares, cinema tickets, lunches etc. You may prefer to act as chauffeur, finance outings and so on. Make sure you are compensated like with like.

Year	Amount	Change	Inflation Rate
1976	36p	+ 9%	-18.5%
1977	45p	+25%	-15.8%
1978	62p	+38%	-8.3%
1979	78p	+26%	-13.4%
1980	98p	+27%	-10.0%
1981	113p	+15%	-11.9%
1982	130p	+15%	-8.8%
1983	122p	+29%	-4.8%
1984	105p	-14%	-5.0%
1985	109p	+4%	-5.0%
1986	117p	+7%	-6.1%

Source: Wall's Pocket Money Monitor by Gallup. Inflation Data from Retail Price Index

An ill breath from the West

MEDICAL BRIEFING

The western lifestyle may be responsible for the apparent increase in asthma cases. The present estimate for the UK, 2.75 million, is higher than ever according to some doctors, who also think that very severe cases are becoming more common.

That our lifestyle may be the culprit is suggested by Dr Ian Gregg, senior research fellow at Southampton University's department of primary medical care, in a paper published in *Clinical Allergy*.

Hard evidence that asthma is on the increase in western countries is rather scanty but epidemiological studies overseas have unearthed cases where the incidence of asthma has risen as the country or population adopted a more western lifestyle.

Two examples are Papua New Guinea and New Zealand. In Papua New Guinea asthma was very rare before the 1970s. By 1980 the prevalence was 7.3 per cent among adults. New Zealand has seen the incidence of asthma among children double to 13.5 per cent between 1969 and 1982. Evidence is that the biggest increase in the country has been among Maoris who have six times the chance of

dying from asthma as Europeans.

Dr Gregg lists vehicle exhaust, industrial effluents, pesticides and detergents among the possible causes of increased asthma but says these have never really been assessed. Another possible cause is food additives.

"Additives could explain an increasing prevalence of asthma, not only in western countries but also in Third World populations, where the introduction of preserved food has been a salient feature of their contact with the West."

Quicker check-up on infertility

More accurate diagnosis of infertility in men may soon be possible in the UK thanks to a machine imported from the United States. Common causes of infertility include not having enough sperm, sperm of the wrong shape or size, or sperm which lack mobility. At present it takes two days for the laboratory to investigate a

sperm sample for each of these problems and to decide whether the donor is fertile.

Ms Anne Jequier, honorary consultant and senior lecturer in obstetrics and gynaecology at the University of Nottingham, has acquired an American computerized machine which will allow her to carry out the task in just 90 seconds. The machine, made by Cellsoft of New York and bought under a deal with Nottingham's Leycor Laboratories, will earn its keep in the private sector but Ms Jequier will use it for research. Only two other such machines are available in Europe.

Its high price makes it unlikely that every infertility clinic will get one. But it may be possible for labs to go "on-line" and make use of the computer program over the telephone.

Meanwhile a few weeks' work with the machine has already shown that conventional techniques grossly over-estimate the quality of sperm, Ms Jequier says. She hopes the machine will allow much more accurate identification of fertile and infertile men.

Greens beat the appendix blues

A diet which contains a healthy proportion of green vegetables and tomatoes will protect against appendicitis, say Medical Research Council scientists. Staff at the MRC's Environmental Epidemiology Unit in Southampton correlated acute appendicitis rates in 59 areas of England and Wales with the local diet, as measured by the National Food Survey 1979-1981. Areas where the most Brussels sprouts, cabbage, peas and tomatoes were eaten have the lowest appendicitis rates.

Writing in the *British Medical Journal*, Professor David Barker, director of the unit, suggests these foods might protect against appendicitis by having a beneficial effect on the bacteria in the appendix. A positive correlation be-

tween potatoes and appendicitis was also found but statistical analysis suggests this was simply because those who ate the least green vegetables were likely to eat the most potatoes.

Safer travelling for your baby

Most parents appear to be unaware of the danger faced by babies who are not properly strapped in while travelling in cars, according to two reports in the latest *British Medical Journal*. In the first few months of life, a forward-facing baby seat is too big while a cot restraint may do little to prevent the baby being flung out of the cot in an accident.

The journal's reports claim that less than a quarter of parents strap their babies in without prompting.

A number of models suitable for babies up to nine months old, which can be secured in the front seats, are now available.

They comply with British safety standards and are designed so that the infant is semi-reclining and facing backwards.

In an emergency, the force will thrust the child into the back of the baby seat and not catapult him or her out. The driver can keep an eye on the baby without having to turn round constantly — and dangerously.

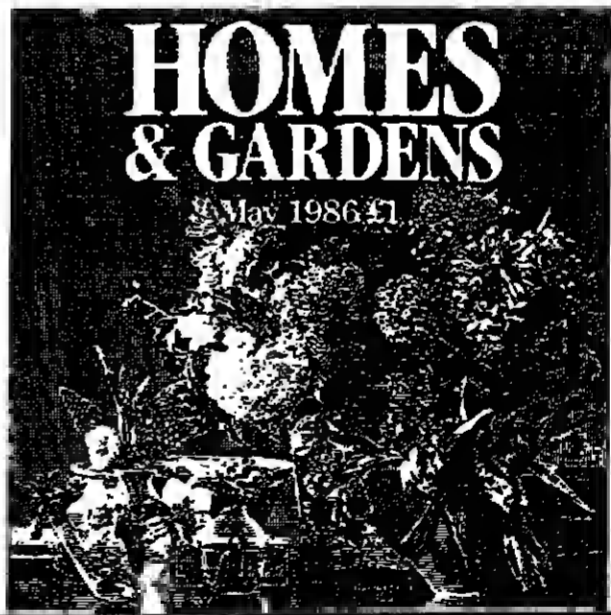
The seats cost about £30 and the Child Accident Prevention Trust has begun a campaign to persuade health authorities to run loan schemes.

Last week, Five Health Board started a loan scheme, and the first 150 babies born there will be given one for the first nine months of their lives. An informal scheme is already running in south Warwickshire.

Loan schemes are already well established in the USA, Scandinavia and New Zealand, where backward-facing infant safety seats have been de rigueur for more than a decade.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

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THE TIMES DIARY

Action replay

The Attorney General, Sir Michael Havers, and the Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Thomas Heitherington, could find themselves in court facing a £16,000 damages claim by Luton housewife Pauline Williams. Earlier this year she brought a successful private manslaughter action against dog pusher Gary Austin, who had injected her teenage son John with a lethal overdose, after the DPP refused to prosecute. Austin was eventually jailed for 15 months. Now she will take the unprecedented step of suing both the DPP and the Attorney General for her legal costs if Sir Albans Crown Court fails to offer her "adequate" expenses for her private action. "Because of this I lost my job and all my savings," says Mrs Williams. "I am asking for £1 an hour for the 6,000 hours I spent working on the case, and £1 for each of the 6,000 letters I sent, as well as compensation for the small legal costs I incurred. It is very small compared with what I have been through. I hold them directly responsible because they failed to prosecute in the first place." Mrs Williams has enrolled as a law student; as a lawyer, she would be entitled to costs in a private prosecution.

Mick's place

Spotted outside Mick Jagger's former London home in Cheyne Walk - which he shared, among others, with Bianca and Marianne Faithfull - the sign "Pest Eradication." The house, now owned "by an earl's daughter," still has traces of Jagger. "Fan mail, awful security bars and terrible decoration," says the firm. "But the new occupant has taste."

Private lives

The tabloids - not to mention Alliance election pamphlets - should make capital out of the Tory's choice of Neil Balfour to fight the forthcoming Ryedale by-election in Yorkshire. Balfour married Princess Elizabeth of Yugoslavia and lost her sensationally in 1974, to Richard Burton, who was cited in the divorce. Balfour's step-daughter is Catherine Oxenbury, known to millions as Joan Collins' daughter in Dynasty and to American viewers as the actress who played Princess Diana in a CBS drama-documentary. When Balfour, a merchant banker, learned of his wife's affair, he quit as the Tories' prospective parliamentary candidate for Hayes and Harlington. He later recovered to write a biography of his late father-in-law, Prince Paul, and became Tory MEP for North Yorks.

Head to head

John Davies, the man who used the National Union of Teachers' conference in Scarborough to denounce the Government's education spending cuts, has more than one axe to grind. As well as being director of the Educational Publishers' Council, he is also a prospective Labour candidate for the next general election. The constituency? Finchley, against Mrs Thatcher.

Divine

Passengers on a flight from New York escaped the wrath of God this week when their plane was struck by lightning. Or perhaps it was meant as a warning shot to one of them - the Rev Ian Paisley, flying back to Belfast to reassert his leadership.

Arthur's seat

Barnley doesn't forget its favourite son. The local trades council is immortalizing Arthur Scargill by putting his name to a new education trust to finance trade union scholarships at Ruskin College, Oxford, and making him its first life president. What more could a man want?



"What rhymes with 'My husband and I'?"

At the ready

Gwyneth Dunwoody's £2,000 debt to the House of Commons restaurant is small beer. I hear one MP who has not been named faces possible action over a reported debt of £6,000. Meanwhile the naming of debtors is having a salutary effect on other MPs, who are deluging the restaurant with cheques to settle unpaid bills. Yesterday Charles Irwin, who provides "Spotted Dick for the ex-public schoolboy and transport café fare for the rest" - as a Cabinet minister has put it - refused to be drawn on the sordid matter of money. "They are all honourable gentlemen - and ladies," he told me.

PHS

I have been trying to imagine what would happen if the United States government signed an agreement allowing the Mexican government to exercise some sort of supervision over the affairs of Texas, to the Texans, such an agreement would be, to risk understatement, less than popular. "Remember the Alamo" might become as potent a cry there as "Remember the Boyne" is in Ulster.

Argument by analogy has its dangers but can nevertheless be illuminating, and simply to suggest that the Mexican government might properly have a role in Texas (or California) or for that matter the French in Quebec does help to make one realize just how extraordinary the Hillsborough agreement is, and how natural the Ulster Protestant opposition.

The full consequences of the agreement still lie in the muck of the future, but it has already achieved what would have been thought impossible - setting Protestants against the Royal Ulster Constabulary. That may seem a piece of statesmanship worthy of George III and Lord North. No doubt there will be found those ready to defend this arrangement as an unavoidable price of the Hillsborough process. They might draw a comparison with France's withdrawal from Algeria, where de Gaulle's policies led the OAS diehards to turn on the force they had idolized, the French army.

But such a comparison exposes the intellectual vanity of Hillsborough: de Gaulle's policy of disengagement from Algeria was represented a recognition of the force of political reality, of the existence inescapable fact of the native Muslim majority. By comparison, Hillsborough seems whimsical; in comparison, it displays a policy framed to please a minority of the minority - that is to say, the SDLP. How has this folly come about?

Political folly is often rooted in ignorance of history, and, unfortunately the English are both bored by history and unaware of it even when it directly affects them. The Scots and the Irish think differently because for us (I write as a Scot) history is a continuing process, as it is for the nations of Eastern Europe. There is much unfinished business: 1707 in Scotland, the whole of the 17th century in Ireland. It is not too much to

Ulster history lessons that go unheeded

by Allan Massie

say that the reason for England's consistent failure in Ireland rests in the English indifference to history.

That rare Englishman Enoch Powell understands this, which is why he now finds himself representing an Ulster constituency. He observed in a Spectator review a year or so ago that for a politician there was no substitute for reading history.

But how much have the members of the present Government read? How much - it is probably superfluous to ask - have the leaders of the Opposition? Does any of them know, for instance, that in 1833, Macaulay, speaking from the Whig benches in the Commons, defied Daniel O'Connell to give one reason why, if there was a parliament in Dublin, there should not also be one in Londonderry?

The Liberator could not supply an answer, nor one has answered adequately since. Yet Macaulay's question is still pertinent; it remains the basis for any serious discussion of the Irish question.

There never was an Irish state or a united Ireland, except under the British Crown. The strongest and most prolonged political effort by any group in the past 100 years has been that made by Ulster Protestants to resist incorporation in a unitary Irish state. They have consistently declined to be subject to a Dublin parliament, even when that parliament was merely to be granted Home Rule under the Crown. The establishment of the Republic of Ireland served only to strengthen the Ulstermen's resolve to be free of Dublin rule. These are historical facts.

When Gladstone proposed Home Rule 100 years ago the

Ulster Protestants had many friends at Westminster. Lord Randolph Churchill saw that "the Orange card" was the one to play; the Tories were resolute against Home Rule. It even broke the Liberal Party, the Whigs hiving off under Harrington and Joseph Chamberlain taking the Radicals into the Liberal Unionists. When Home Rule was revived a quarter of a century later some Tories were still sufficiently adamant to contemplate an army mutiny. "Ulster will fight, and Ulster will be right," said the Dublin-born Sir Edward Carson. Anyone with eyes can see that Ulster's determination and belief in the rightness of its cause has not diminished, though its support at Westminster has withered.

In 1922 the North was given what Ulstermen had never in fact asked for - a parliament of its own. For nearly 50 years there was comparative peace in Ireland. No doubt there was discrimination against the Catholic minority in the North, but this discrimination was never sufficiently severe to provoke either rebellion or emigration on any great scale. Eventually came the demand for civil rights, though in fact Catholics in Ulster enjoyed the same civil rights as their fellow citizens throughout the United Kingdom. Whatever measures of discrimination were actually practised rested on no legal authority.

This demand coincided with the first attempt of the provincial government, led by Captain Terence O'Neill, to effect some sort of rapprochement with Dublin. As disorder grew, Edward Heath suppressed the Stormont government, though logic suggests that he might have been wiser to

strengthen it. The abolition of Stormont inaugurated the policy which Westminster has continued ever since and which has come to fruition in the Hillsborough agreement; its aim has been to appease the Catholic minority in the hope of detaching it from the IRA and Sinn Fein.

There is no evidence that this policy has worked or is working. Its corollary has been to embitter and inflame the Protestant majority, with the results we now see. In short, Westminster's policy has been to pretend that the question Macaulay put to O'Connell was invalid and unimportant.

The optimism of such pretence is puerile. The government would do better to heed the wiser counsels of the man who was perhaps the wisest of all Conservative prime ministers, the third Marquess of Salisbury: "The optimistic view of politics assumes there must be some remedy for every political ill, and rather than not find it, will make two hardships to cure one. If all equitable remedies have failed, its votaries take it as proved without argument that the one-sided remedies which are left must needs succeed."

One thing we know we can do in Ireland, for we have done it in India and elsewhere with populations more unmanageable and more hither: we can keep the peace and we can root out organized crime. But there is no precedent in our history to teach us that political reassurance can conjure away hereditary antipathies which are fed by constant agitation. The free institutions, which sustain the life of a free and united people, sustain also the hatreds of a divided people.

What is the Hillsborough agreement but a one-sided remedy such as Salisbury deplored? What are all the elaborate schemes proffered in the last 15 years but political measures that are no more than fantasies conceived in the hope of "conjuring away hereditary antipathies"?

Ulster requires no such chimeras. It requires firm and fair government. It requires the recognition of the truth behind Macaulay's question: that the Ulster Protestants will not submit to a Dublin government. But isn't that precisely what Enoch Powell, who has read and pondered history, has been demanding?

Mary Dejevsky analyses Gorbachov's diplomatic shake-up

Moscow's new faces abroad

Anatoly Dobrynin is making his final farewell calls in Washington after 24 years as Soviet ambassador. In the few weeks Moscow's ambassadors in Bonn, London and Peking will be making similar rounds. The moves are part of an extensive reshuffle which reflects a change in the face and possibly the direction of Soviet diplomacy.

In the Soviet Union, the choice of an ambassador appears to be, just as politically motivated as it is in the United States. Andropov's accession to power in 1982 was followed by the appointment of career officials in the Soviet Communist Party as new ambassadors to Poland, Bulgaria and Hungary. This was seen partly as the first stage in a necessary rejuvenation of the diplomatic cadre but also as an attempt by Moscow to reassert its authority in Eastern Europe after a period of weak leadership during Brezhnev's final years.

The moves now taking place may be a continuation of the rejuvenation process begun by Andropov. But they also reinforce the impression that Soviet foreign policy has acquired new priorities since Mikhail Gorbachov came to power, and Andrei Gromyko, to the presidency and away from everyday policy-making.

The new priorities bring the superpower relationship back into the centre of Soviet foreign policy, but they also provide for other options should the incipient dialogue with America come to nothing. Gorbachov's predecessors faced the failure of their attempts to block deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles in Western Europe and the breakdown of the Geneva arms control talks without any alternative policies. Gorbachov's concern to build up his country's diplomacy in the Far East, and in particular to improve relations with China, suggests that he does not want the Soviet Union to be bereft of policy choices again.

The new Soviet ambassador to Peking is the only one to have

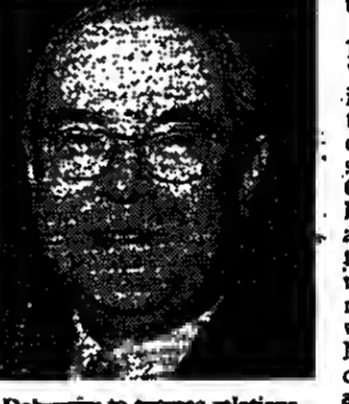


Kvitkinsky: arms expert tipped for Bonn

been named so far. He is Oleg Troyanovsky, who served until February as Soviet ambassador to the United Nations. During his nine years at the UN he had to weather the storm created by his country's invasion of Afghanistan. It was largely thanks to his urbane manner, excellent command of English and feeling for public relations (he spent some of his teenage years in the US while his father was serving as Soviet ambassador to Washington) that the Moscow's international prestige did not suffer greater damage during this difficult period.

Troyanovsky's willingness to adapt to the ways of his host country and take a high diplomatic profile casts him in the Gorbachov mould, despite his age - he is in his mid-sixties. At the same time, the appointment of so experienced a diplomat confers a seniority on the China posting that it has not enjoyed for 25 years.

Moscow's new appointments to the three Western capitals have not yet been announced, but a number of names have been floated. Two men are believed to be in contention for the Washington post. One is the current Soviet ambassador in Paris, Yuli Vorontsov, whose nomination would leave another prestige posting vacant. The other possibility is Viktor Kompletov, a specialist on the US who became a deputy



Dobrynin: to oversee relations with the West

foreign minister three years ago. But whoever takes up the appointment will have to reckon with the continuing influence on Soviet diplomacy of former ambassador Dobrynin. He is being recalled from Washington to join the Central Committee secretariat where he is expected to oversee Soviet relations with the Western world as a whole.

The name most frequently mentioned for London is that of Leonid Zamyatin, who has until now been a formidable figure in the Soviet foreign ministry. But his appointment would be a dubious honour, both for him and for London. It would mean Zamyatin's effective removal from the domestic scene, where he has been head of the Central Committee's international information department for more than eight years, amounting to an honourable retirement posting for an ideological conservative whose face no longer fits.

For some time Moscow has appeared to accept that its influence in London is circumscribed by British government policy and by this country's special relationship with the US. If Zamyatin is named as ambassador to London, his seniority will formally precede the post; his reputation for unimaginative vetoing the Soviet party line will not. Unless, that is, Gorbachov believes that Zamyatin is the man

to crack the tough London nut.

Gorbachov's assessment of Moscow's diplomatic chances in Western Europe is most opaque in its possible choice of ambassador to Bonn. Oleg Kvitkinsky is the chief Soviet negotiator in the space weapons section of the Geneva arms talks with the US. He has as much experience of the arms control debate as anyone in the Soviet foreign policy establishment, and it was he who took the now legendary "walk in the woods" with US ambassador Paul Nitze that brought the previous set of Geneva talks - on intermediate-range nuclear missiles - so close to success.

As well as speaking fluent English, Kvitkinsky has the familiarity with Western ways and the sure public relations touch that Gorbachov requires of Soviet representatives abroad. He also has experience of West Germany, having been second secretary at the Bonn embassy during the 1960s and subsequently specializing in East-West German affairs at the foreign ministry in Moscow.

The importance of Bonn as the potential battleground for West European opinion was identified by the US a year ago when the young, energetic and highly political Richard Burt was posted there. Kvitkinsky would hold out the prospect of an epic duel between Moscow and Washington for the hearts and minds of West Germans in the run-up to the German elections early next year.

The Gorbachov appointments, for that is what they are, suggest the contours of a coherent foreign policy still in the making. Its priority will be to cultivate the superpower relationship while at the same time pursuing with renewed energy the traditional Soviet objective of weaning Western Europe from the Atlantic alliance. But this policy also contains a fallback position in the parallel attention that is being paid to China. If judged sensibly, the new appointments in relations with China could help release Moscow from the tyranny of the superpower relationship.

and it was purchased by a Bilbao banker. In 1983 the painting was sold by the banker's heirs to Bosch, reportedly for 25 million pesetas. But on the disputed export document the painting's value is given as 165 million pesetas - about £750,000.

And so to bed for the Marquesa

world, not always respecting countries' internal laws". He claimed that Spain was now a world leader in the protection of national art treasures and pointed out that the return of the Goya was the last such move under the old law. Under a stricter law, which came into effect last year, anyone convicted of illegally exporting a classified work of art can be fined up to four times the object's worth.

British newspaper reports at the beginning of the year alerted the Spanish authorities to the planned Christie's auction of the Goya. Lord Wimborne bought the painting last year from Pedro Saorin Bosch, a businessman who had obtained export licences in Spain, documents which Lord Wimborne's lawyers had maintained in force.

The heirs' motive in selling was said to have been to meet demands made on the family by ETA, the Basque armed separatist organization, to pay its "revolutionary tax".

The painting's second odyssey then began. It was smuggled out of Spain either on board a private yacht or, officials have maintained, as cargo on an air flight to Switzerland.

Richard Wigg and Geraldine Norman

Hew Strachan Why Star Wars is not enough

Since the Second World War, military thought has tended not to create its own demands of science but to absorb whatever science has produced. Procurement has therefore seemed eclectic rather than developing weapons systems that conformed to an overall tactical or strategic policy, defence ministries have over-insured by pursuing as many future technologies as possible. It has become a truism to say that military doctrine is the product rather than the parent of technology.

This is best demonstrated in the field of nuclear weapons. The Manhattan project was not the fruit of deterrence theory; rather, the atomic bomb was developed by nuclear physicists driven by the fear that Germany might get the bomb first. With some notable exceptions, no serious attempt was made to integrate the bomb's awesome destructive powers into a strategy until almost a decade after the attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The concepts that determined today's view of nuclear deterrence were first adumbrated and then refined after the advent of the hydrogen bomb and the missile used to deliver it.

President Reagan's "Star Wars" speech of March 23 1983 was a dramatic departure from this process. Critics of American arms policy have contended that too many technological innovations, such as MIRVed warheads in the 1970s, have been adopted after insufficient debate, that their full implications were not realized until they had entered the inventories of the superpowers. In the case of Star Wars, the objective was announced and the debate initiated before the technology was available.

However, Reagan's speech did not, as he had hoped, capture the high ground of the nuclear debate. For a year, the response of the strategic studies experts ranged from ridicule to silence. In 1986, when we all give SDI consideration, organize conferences on its implications and respond to press debate, we forget the atmosphere of 1983. Reagan's speech was ignored. To take it seriously was to invite scorn; not even his own administration followed it up. Until the summer of 1984 it seemed that Star Wars might be quickly forgotten.

What caused the delayed response? Strategic thought on both sides of the Atlantic is still dominated by the ideas of the late 1950s. Their authors or their authors' pupils hold major positions in government and academic life. For these men, what is striking about the nuclear age is its continuity. Professor Lawrence Martin, the 1981 Reith Lecturer, has even attributed to nuclear weapons "the declaration of history". For such thinkers the tenets of deterrence have remained constant, despite all the technological innovations in nuclear weaponry since 1945. Indeed the nuclear weapons systems planned for the 1990s - Trident

and MX - are presented as updating the missiles already deployed, not as radically new technology.

Doctrine in the past may have been confined to post-hoc rationalization, whether for the first atomic bombs or even for the Polaris and Minuteman missiles of the McNamara era, but the same rationalization is now being used to justify the future pattern of procurement.

To most strategic analysts, therefore, Reagan's speech was profoundly threatening. It posited a different doctrine rather than deterrence by the threat of retaliation. It offered a vision of security defence. Above all, an American president had acknowledged both the logical and moral weakness of deterrence - that its credibility rested on a principle of revenge by a country already devastated by nuclear strike.

Of the many ironies that the reaction to Reagan's speech produced, three stand out. The first is that it was rejected as escalating the arms race by those to whom, presumably, it was meant to appeal: unilateral disarmers in the US and Europe. The second is that, although much criticism has focused on the technological difficulties, its principal opponent, with the evolution (and even primacy) of strategic doctrine. The third is a product of the second and explains the current (and, otherwise paradoxical) interest in studying SDI. Given the absurdity of refusing to think through a line of technological development because it does not fit preconceived notions, military thinkers have been forced to assimilate some of the Star Wars message.

In his speech Reagan ignored the current and short-term strategic issues, preferring to sketch a distant but attractive goal for immediate political effect. Therefore the options open to analysts - on issues ranging from arms control to the US guarantee to Europe - are considerable. It is already clear that most of the strategic community has circumvented the doctrinal challenge by assimilating SDI into current nuclear deterrence thinking.

moreover... Miles Kington

England's wide boy star

The West Indies Test series has not been a total disaster for England. One member of our side has scored consistently well in every innings, and once was even top scorer. Yes, it's that dependable but unsung hero, Extras.

Yesterday, as he lolled beside the hotel pool getting ready for the fifth and final Test, I talked to little Johnny Extras about the sheer grit and professionalism that has made him England's only real success of the tour.

It was, I discovered to my surprise, the first interview he has ever given. Why was it, I asked him, that when some members of the England side could not go to the bathroom without a journalist in attendance, he was given complete privacy by the press?

"Well, Brian," Extras told me, "I think it's only natural. I go in number 12, which is very low in the batting order, so people don't think of me as a glamorous player. Add to that the fact that I never score sixes, and very rarely fours, and you can see why people ignore me. But that's fine by me, as it takes the pressure off. I can get on with the job of accumulating a respectable score."

the bushes for a smoke, but I'd prefer to curl up with a good book or look at a cathedral. At the moment, for instance, I'm reading Proust. In French, I don't understand a lot of it, but it keeps the team at a distance."

Never a slacker, Extras prefers to accumulate runs in ones and twos, allowing the bowlers to make the mistakes. For this reason, he is one of the few modern batsmen who prefer to facefast bowling rather than spin.

"Stands to reason, Brian. Fast bowlers make more mistakes. I agree that this lot of West Indian speed merchants are pretty fearsome, but they do bowler wildly from time to time, and that's the moment to scamper a bye or no-ball. I'm not a great believer in putting bat to ball - in fact, I can't remember the last time I did so - but when you realize that most batsmen are out through trying to hit the ball, well, it makes sense. Slow and steady is my motto. Proust's too, from the look of it."

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COHAB



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REASONS TO RETALIATE

Two weeks ago when the United States Navy responded to a Libyan missile attack with strikes against Libyan ships and mainland missile installations, the American retaliation was criticised on several grounds. It was argued that retaliation against Colonel Gadhafi was reckless since it would only provoke retaliation in turn; that it would rally support for the Libyan leader both domestically and from other Arab states; and that military action against terrorism would prove futile as long as the United States failed to tackle its root cause by solving the Palestinian problem.

These arguments seemed specious at the time. The first amounts to asserting that if somebody attacks you, it would be reckless to respond in case somebody attacks you. Since that attitude, if translated into policy, would remove all risk from terrorism and aggression, it would invite more of both.

The claim that American retaliation would make Colonel Gadhafi a popular Arab hero was insulting to the Arabs. It suggested that they live in a world of make-believe and braggadocio and cannot distinguish ignominious posturing and defeat from heroic resistance.

No state, finally, let alone a superpower with world-wide interests, could accept that it had no right to protect its citizens and property against attack until it had solved a notoriously intractable problem for which it had no direct responsibility.

Events since the clash in the Gulf of Sirte have generally endorsed this scepticism. Arab support for the Libyans was distinctly pro forma. Reports from Libya itself, contradicting the impression from television news pictures of anti-American mass hysteria, describe a generally mild reaction.

The Colonel himself, departing from his usual practice of praising those few terrorist acts for which he does not also claim responsibility, denounced the bombing of the Rome-Athens TWA airliner as inhuman and has now firmly denied any Libyan involvement in the bombing of a Berlin night-club. He at least is showing nervousness in the face of possible retaliation even if others remain intransigent on his behalf.

This gain would be very theoretical, however, if the Libyan leader continued to support terrorism while denying the fact. That was, in effect, the charge levelled by President Reagan in his Wednesday press conference when he claimed that Colonel Gadhafi was "definitely a suspect" in both the Berlin and TWA bombings. The President's remarks, accompanied as they were by a US naval build-up near the Libyan coast, have prompted speculation that another retaliatory strike is in the offing. As a result, fresh criticisms of the idea of retaliation have been minted.

The first is that Libya is not alone in fostering terrorist activity. Syria and Iran are at least equally implicated. Insofar as that is true — which is

to a considerable extent — it is an argument rather for retaliating against Syria and Iran than for culpulating Libya.

But a right to retaliate against a terrorist state is not an absolute obligation to do so. In the case of Syria, for instance, prudence and realpolitik have combined to persuade the United States that more would be lost than gained by military action. Syria is, in military terms, a hard nut to crack. It is closely aligned with the Soviet Union. And the State Department cherishes hopes that Syria may yet play a constructive role in the Arab-Israeli dispute.

The second objection is that the evidence linking Libya to the recent bombings is inconclusive. That is a reasonable defence against a charge in a court of law. But a different standard of proof applies between states in conflict.

Terrorist training camps are stationed in Libya. Colonel Gadhafi has often proclaimed his involvement in terrorist actions, which are in effect acts of war, against the United States. Those boasts are supported by circumstantial evidence of Libyan involvement. It is against that background that his present denials should be judged. To demand that the United States should present detailed evidence of Libyan involvement in what happens to be the most recent atrocity if it is to justify retaliation against an inveterate enemy is to extend international law unreasonably in a way that can only benefit those states which ignore it altogether.

INFLATION IS STILL THE TEST

Last night Mr Nigel Lawson enjoyed the opportunity to tell New York of the revival of the British economy. Next week he faces a more uncomfortable test. The monetary side of his strategy was expurgated from his Budget speech, on the excuse that MPs had in the past displayed some impatience with Mr Lawson's Budget-day excursions down the motorways of monetary policy. Rashly, Mr Lawson promised all would be explained in April.

Since the Budget, the financial markets have endorsed two reductions in bank base rates. The pound has remained steady; the ripples from falling oil prices have subsided. Mr Lawson can, and does, extract great satisfaction from having weathered the storm with only one temporary increase in interest rates, and without having had to beg for membership of the Organisation of Oil-Exporting Countries.

None of this, however, can obscure Mr Lawson's monetary difficulty. On Wednesday, just after the second cut in bank base rates had been endorsed by the Bank of England, the monthly money figures showed the narrowest measure of money was well within target. But broad money — Sterling M3 — was running over the top of its range, which the Chancellor had jacked right up only in last month's Budget. Yesterday, Mr Lawson said that there was scope for a further worldwide cut in interest rates.

Targets for Sterling M3 are the oldest of the Government's monetary disciplines. As this measure of the money supply has become increasingly dis-

torted by financial innovation, the Chancellor has shoved Sterling M3 into an old folk's home, though he cannot quite bring himself to commit euthanasia. The behaviour of broad money does not make easier Mr Lawson's task, which is to demonstrate that falling interest rates are a sign of economic success, and not of a failure of financial control.

Lower oil prices, easing shorter-term inflationary pressures worldwide, help to justify the cuts in interest rates rippling through the world's economies. This is a welcome development, from which Britain should seek to extract its share of benefit. While the worst of the oil tempest threatened sterling, Britain had to widen the gap between its interest rates and those abroad; now it can safely seek to narrow this gap. Provided, that is, Mr Lawson can convince the markets that the foundations of his counter-inflationary strategy remain sound.

Fundamentally, the guarantee of good intentions is the nemesis that would await this Government were it to lose grip on inflation. Inflation is, as Mr Lawson claims, "judge and jury" of his monetary strategy. The difficulty, as his critics have pointed out, is that it takes a long time to deliver its verdict.

Mr Lawson's latest favoured indicator is nominal national income "money gdp". This does, indeed, bear a clear relationship to inflation. But money gdp cannot be monitored from day to day, or even month to month. It, too, offers judgment — but not the prevention of crime.

"COHABITATION" AT THE ELYSÉE

A flash of temper from the prime minister, goaded beyond endurance by the opposition, the brief suspension of proceedings and a walk-out by the Communists — in protest against the extreme right — combined to make the first test of parliamentary confidence in the new French government of M. Jacques Chirac a lively affair. But he won his majority, if only just, with an 80-minute speech to the National Assembly which was notable for its moderation and his own statesmanship.

That is just as well, because the announcement by President Mitterrand at the Cabinet meeting in the Elysée palace that only several hours before, that he would oppose part of the prime minister's privatization programme, held out the promise of hard times ahead for both men — and possibly for France. "Cohabitation" in France, called it, as yesterday's French press divided along political lines in assessing the outcome of an eventful day.

government supporters has been the scope of the new government's de-nationalization programme — with 42 banks and financial houses, 11 industrial groupings and four insurance companies due to be privatized by decree over the next five years. In the face of that, President Mitterrand's reaction has been, politically, quite inspired. A number of the firms and groups involved had been brought under state control by the then General de Gaulle following the liberation of France in 1944, others by the Socialists since their election victory five years ago. By making his stand against privatization of the former, the President has in effect told Chirac that "you don't de-nationalize de Gaulle."

How far he can succeed in embarrassing his premier remains to be seen. Chirac could circumvent the presidential obstacle by introducing his measures to parliament and seeking a vote of confidence. But this would cause delays and difficulties and perhaps necessitate political com-

promise. Yet for him to back down in the face of Mitterrand's continuing intransigence would damage his own authority and political image. It is simply going to be tough at the top — as everyone knew it would be.

Of those measures which are new, the government's strong stance against terrorism is provoking most controversy. The introduction of special courts and a ruling that police can hold suspects for up to four days without trial reflect rising concern about terrorism throughout Western countries.

Whether the adoption of a 30-year prison sentence will deter the determined terrorist is another matter. It would seem unlikely. But it is arguably important for its symbolic value. The message which has come from Paris is that the Chirac administration is to pursue a determined anti-terrorist course — in close conjunction, it is to be hoped, with other Western powers on both sides of the Atlantic.

Attitudes to US take-over bids

From Mr H. Morrough, FRS, FEng Sir, The chairman of B.A.T., Unilever and BP, in their letter of March 28, have done their jobs as required of them as representatives of companies with major investment interests in the US. However, to call the opposition to General Motors' acquisition of Leyland Trucks and Land Rover "anti-American" shows lamentable lack of understanding of the cause of this opposition.

It is noteworthy that they omitted reference to the similar rejection of the proposal of Ford with respect to Austin Rover. The opposition would have been the same if the proposals had been from Japan, France or Germany. So much for "anti-Americanism".

Freedom to invest in all directions is fine if restricted by all without sanction and restriction. However, if 80 per cent or more of the automotive industries of the USA or Japan, or France or West Germany were under foreign control what do they think the attitudes of the governments of these countries would have been to the take-over of almost the total of the remainder by foreign interests?

An economy of the size of the UK needs a strong automotive industry because its products are widely used domestically, it has important export potential and for strategic reasons. It needs to be efficient in production and marketing. It should be capable of being judged on these latter aspects.

In this country such competition is possible — by virtual unrestricted (but sometimes unfair) imports and by the existence of three (soon to be four) large foreign-owned producers in the UK — Ford, GM and Peugeot and shortly Nissan. The task is to get BL to achieve satisfactory marketing and production efficiency. Perhaps this will require international co-operation — as between BL and Honda — and perhaps with US companies — but not the complete take-over.

The claim from Government is that such take-overs will save jobs. This is perhaps true in the assembly plants but who doubts that there would be more than a compensating loss of jobs in the component supply industries. From where do Ford, GM and Peugeot obtain all the cars they sell and component use in the UK?

With so much of our automotive requirements in the UK already imported or manufactured in part overseas and under foreign control a reasonable industrial strategy would retain and encourage a strong UK-based industry. This is not "anti-Americanism".

Yours faithfully,
H. MORROUGH,
Cedarwood,
Petrin Lane,
Tanworth-in-Arden,
Warwickshire,
April 1.

Cereal prices

From Mr Robert Saunders Sir, The table you publish today (March 28) shows that the EEC exported 7,330,000 tonnes of cereals to the Soviet Union to a value of £785 million. If my pocket calculator is functioning correctly, this works out to a little over £107 per tonne.

This "knock-down" price is around the average price received by British cereal producers for feed grain. Yet Mr Michael Jopling wants to knock down this price still further, with all the consequences this would have for our rural economy.

His pretext for doing so is the size of the "cereal mountain". Broadly you give as 15.3 million tonnes. I understand that the EEC's imports of cereals and cereal substitutes are annually in excess of this figure.

Should not those concerned with the "cereal mountain" turn their attention to these imports rather than to our own production? Not to do so is rather like the housewife who buys her vegetables from the greengrocer when she has a well stocked kitchen garden and an over full deep freezer!

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT SAUNDERS,
Chairman,
E. F. Saunders & Sons Ltd,
Friar Mayne Farm,
Broadmayne,
Dorchester,
Dorset,
March 28.

Threat to buses

From Mr John Taylor Sir, In your thoughtful leading article, "Only one of London's problems" (March 28), you say "It has never been clear (nor has the abolition exercise clarified) why Birmingham or Leeds should not run their own buses and fire service and police forces". You are right. The basic technical considerations never were made plain to the public.

As far as the buses are concerned the passenger transport executives (PTEs) were set up to cope with the travel problems in areas where a group of towns and cities have become interlinked by patterns of employment, housing, shopping, recreation, hospital catchment areas etc.

Here in West Yorkshire the central 40 per cent of county area contains three quarters of the

'Single guess' on poly spending

From Mr Max Weaver Sir, It is difficult to know how to react to Sir Keith's dismissal (April 9) of your front page report (April 8) that places in polytechnics are to be cut by 9,500 in 1987/88. Are we, in the polytechnics, now to ignore the letters from the National Advisory Board secretariat and to assume that changes will occur primarily in the unit of resource? That would be to assume that John Bevan and his able colleagues have done nothing more than produce an enormous red herring.

The NAB is not so insulated from the DES that this conclusion is at all plausible, and it is frankly preposterous for Sir Keith to pretend that there has been only a "single guess" at the total amount of money that will be available in the academic year which starts in 18 months' time and in respect of which students will be applying before Christmas for places. The NAB is relying, reasonably, on Government spending plans. The prospect of cuts in our own subject, law, seems both real and ridiculous; real because the NAB has, despite our counter arguments and strong representation from the professions, only been able to offer what it euphemistically describes as the "lowest degree of protection" viz a 17 per cent cut; ridiculous because the pressure for places from well qualified applicants is very great indeed, and the professions with which we are particularly concerned see no case for a reduction.

If I could cite, by way of example, the position at my own polytechnic, City, we offer — in addition to LLB and MA courses in business law and a substantial law programme on our modular degree, all of which are popular and viable courses on any view of the economics of higher education — courses leading to the common professional examination for non-law graduates intending to become solicitors (for which we are limited to 30 students per year and receive well over 20 applications for every available place) and for the solicitors' final.

In the latter case we operate a "first come, first served" policy and are now fully booked until 1989, with very substantial waiting lists. I could certainly teach more students in the time I now devote each week to explaining this unfortunate situation to well qualified graduates determined on a career as a solicitor.

Yours faithfully,
MAX WEAVER,
Chairman,
Committee of Heads of Polytechnic Law Schools,
City of London Polytechnic,
84 Moorgate, EC2,
April 9.

Trial by jury

From Mr Charles Fyffe Sir, Mr J. T. Gladysz (April 4) offers reasons for abolishing juries that seem, at best, dubitable. There is still a need for impartiality. Judges, like the rest of us, are still not entirely free of political and other pressures.

If "ordinary citizens are unable to understand a modern trial" we must change the legal system. Trials are not a game of "nuances and legal technicalities", to be

played exclusively by judges and barristers. Defendants and witnesses are ordinary citizens too.

Does Mr Gladysz want a return to the Court of Chancery of *Black House*? Juries are principally to warn our rulers (and, sometimes, judges), however little they may like it, how far they can go in deciding what is, and is not, criminal. It's a protection we still need.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE E. DAVISON,
National Secretary,
Association of Polytechnic Teachers,
Throgmorton House,
27 Elphinstone Road,
Southsea, Hampshire.

Those bodies, such as the Association of Polytechnic Teachers, who challenged the policy of increasing access while dissipating resources, were branded as "elitist" and "debarred" from the councils of NAB. We have no joy in being proved right; our members will suffer along with all staff who face loss of their jobs or further stress.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE E. DAVISON,
National Secretary,
Association of Polytechnic Teachers,
Throgmorton House,
27 Elphinstone Road,
Southsea, Hampshire.

What little has been burnt out, and that it is so little is a tremendous compliment to the firefighters, is easily replaceable, as it was, by architects and craftsmen at work in this country today. The building, so repaired, will be an excellent example of 20th century workmanship to the highest standards. If it is indistinguishable from the original what higher compliment could be paid?

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE CURTIS,
Dalchrook House,
Dedham,
Colchester,
Essex,
April 7.

Way of Wren

From Mr George Curtis Sir, Mr Manser (April 7) has the temerity to claim that Sir Christopher Wren would deal with the fire damage to his own building at Hampton Court by pulling it down, which it doesn't need, and replacing it as new, not with a replica of his original work but with some new edifice, by implication, in a wholly alien style.

The juxtaposition of ancient and modern would doubtless be hailed as "exciting". The notion that Wren was too vain to copy himself, let alone anybody else, demonstrates a fairly sizeable ignorance of his handiwork.

Alternative prayers

From Mrs Maurice Wood Sir, I read with interest the letter from Professor Basil Mitchell and others (March 28) suggesting that "the problems of the modern world" should lead many Anglicans to use again the *Book of Common Prayer* and draw on its deep spiritual resources.

Her Majesty the Queen, members of her family, and her ministers are now continually in the target area, as they steadily, with great courage, go about their, and our, business. What better time than this for the Church of England and Anglican churches

across the world to use regularly the splendid and comprehensive State prayers of the old prayer book? Let the threat to Princess Anne last week prod us into encouraging our clergy to do this.

For those who, like myself, scurry belatedly and longingly through the Alternative Service Book the State prayers can be found on page 103. A magnifying glass may be useful in discovering the number of the page!

Yours etc,
MARGARET WOOD,
36 Biddulph Mansions,
Biddulph Road, Maida Vale, W9,
March 30.

yielding annually £17.65 million in social benefit and £3.64 million direct financial benefit. Five private enterprise bus operators take part in the scheme.

Without the PTEs there would have been no Tyne and Wear Metro, no Merseyside Loop and Link, no light rapid transit plan for Greater Manchester or trolleybus proposals for South and West Yorkshire. Schemes like these for superior, technically advanced passenger transport depend upon covering an area wider than just one district for their viability.

All these excellent things are now at risk from the Government's destructive and inappropriate bus deregulation legislation.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TAYLOR,
10 South End Grove,
Bramley,
Leeds, West Yorkshire.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 11 1881

Alexander II (1818-1881), known as the "Tsar Liberator", succeeded his father, Nicholas I, in 1855. He survived three attacks on his life, but on March 13 (new style) he was assassinated by members of the nihilist organization, ironically on the day he had signed a decree preparing a commission for reforming the legislation. All the defendants except Helldmann, who was pregnant, were hanged on April 15.

TRIAL OF THE CZAR'S ASSASSINS

St. Petersburg, April 10. Yesterday morning the Procurator Moravtsev began his speech for the Crown, which occupied, with one or two intervals, no less than five hours.

After the interval at noon for lunch the Procurator began the second part of his case, by giving a detailed description of the lives, careers, and characteristics of the six accused of the crime. His career in the ranks of the party had extended over ten years. The life of Sophie Perofskaja was next analyzed, and found wanting in everything that was womanly and attractive in her sex, although her position and connexion had given her every opportunity of receiving the best possible education that could be had. Leaving her home to propagate the ideas of her party in the national schools of the interior, she too became the blind executioner of Jelaboff's will, and gave the signal for exploding both the mine under the Moscow Railway and the bomb on the Catherine Canal, Kibichich, once a member of the Academy of Engineers, was disposed of by a description of his chemical service to the party and of his revolutionary ideas for overthrowing the existing state of society. Michailoff, as a simple, uneducated peasant and workman, was another instance of Jelaboff, understanding little of the revolutionary and Socialist ideas of his more intelligent companions, and devoting himself to set workmen at variance with their masters for the advantage of the revolution.

After a pause of an hour and a half, the four counsel for the defence began their speeches at half-past 7, each not taking up more than about a quarter of an hour. They all felt the difficulty of their task increased by the influence over them of the terrible catastrophe of the 13th March, and made more or less feeble efforts to lighten the penalties in store for the prisoners. The counsel for Michailoff maintained that as the latter had concerned himself solely with the economic conditions of the workmen, and not with the higher political ideas of the rest, he ought not to be classed with them, and pleaded for at least his life. The best defence of all was made by M. Gerard for Kibichich. He drew a picture of how Kibichich, like hundreds of others, had been thrown into his illegal and almost inextricable position by being sent from St. Petersburg after the murder of General Mesentzoff because he had once been in the hands of the authorities on the slight charge of distributing forbidden books. The prisoner Jelaboff defended himself, speaking with considerable force and boldness.

At about 2 o'clock the Court again retired, the prisoners being removed as before, and only at 7 this morning, when it was quite daylight and the public, weary of waiting, were dozing about the corridors of the court, did the eight judges re-enter and pronounce judgment. All standing, excepting the judges, the President read the sentence of death by hanging against all the prisoners. They received the sentence with perfect calmness and indifference.

Yours faithfully,
C. F. FFFE,
52 Holmdale Road, NW6

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE CURTIS,
Dalchrook House,
Dedham,
Colchester,
Essex,
April 7.

Dressed as ham

From Mr Geoffrey A. K. Robinson Sir, Shopping in an unfamiliar greengrocer recently I noticed on the shelves packaged goods specially prepared for vegetarians. What caught my eye was "Vegebaner" and "Vegeburger". Vegebaner in particular looked most appealing, if the illustration was anything to go by; Vegeburger looked virtually exactly like the conventional hamburger it was obviously designed to imitate.

What puzzled me is why should vegetarians wish to do their food up to look like the stuff carnivores, such as myself, prefer? Do they, underneath, suffer deeply from inferiority complexes?

Yours faithfully,
G. A. K. ROBINSON,
68 Park Street,
Bristol,
Avon.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE April 10: His Excellency the Ambassador of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Madame Popova...

upon the arrival of His Excellency U Ne Win and Madame Ne Win of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma...

KENSINGTON PALACE April 10: The Princess of Wales this morning visited the Sea Life Centre, Southsea, Hampshire...



Princess Anne in the driving seat of a train at Euston station yesterday after naming it "University of London..."

£40 Chippendale sold for £280,000

In most houses a Chippendale mirror would have pride of place and the diffident owner would be constantly bringing it to the attention of his visitors...

Forthcoming marriages

- Mr D.J. Alexander and Miss K.M.M. Russell The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs Brian Alexander...

Science report

First light from a young star

A fascinating picture showing the first image of a newborn star is on a cover of the journal Nature. The flash of light was captured at the European Southern Observatory...

Luncheon

Luncheon Comment Club Mrs Barbara Castle, MEP, was the guest speaker at a luncheon of the Luncheon Comment Club held yesterday at the Connaught Rooms...

Diners

Dinner Club Lord Young of Gramshaw was the principal guest and speaker at a dinner of the Dinner Club on April 7 at the Cavalry and Guards Club...

Service dinners

The Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association for Great Britain held dinner last night at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea...

Birthdays today

Miss Janet Allen, 50, Colonel J.P. Carne, VC, 80, Professor Raymond Carr, 67, Mr Clive Eaton, 60, Mr Clive Eaton, 60, Mr Clive Eaton, 60...

University news

London MARY COLLEGE The following appointment has been made by the Faculty of Laws: Professor David W. Robertson, of the University of Texas school of law...

OBITUARY

DR C. I. C. BOSANQUET First Vice-Chancellor of Newcastle University

Dr Charles Bosanquet, who died on April 9, aged 82, was the first Vice-Chancellor of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, holding office from 1963 until he retired in 1968...

MAJ-GENERIC SIXSMITH

Major-General Eric Sixsmith, CB, CBE, a gallant and distinguished soldier of wide experience who had published three works on military commanders, died on April 8, aged 81...

MR ANDREW FREETH

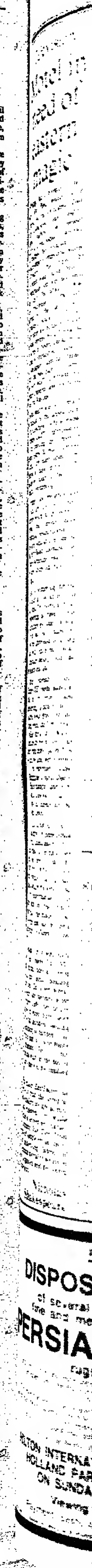
H. Andrew Freeth, RA, the portrait painter and etcher, who has died aged 73, had exhibited almost 200 works at the Royal Academy during his long career...

CANON EDWARD SULSTON

Canon Edward Sulston, who has died at the age of 78, was Deputy Secretary of the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel during some of its most eventful years...

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THE ARTS

Television
Motel in need of eastern magic

"Orange juice, please." These were the first words to be uttered by the swimmer Duncan Goodhew, last night's guest celebrity on episode 4.216 of *Crossroads* (Central). For paths they rivalled Henry Kissinger's immortal words in *Dynasty*. "That's right", he says when Joan Collins breathily complains she has not seen him since Portofino. I was even reminded of the line uttered by the last Tsar, Nicholas II, when in 1923, six years after his putative death, he was spotted by a friend on the steps of Notre Dame de la Garde in Marseilles. "Good to see you again", said the friend. "But you look pale." "I don't feel very well", conceded the former Emperor and Autocrat of all the Russias.

Good health was very much the reason for the appearance of Mr Goodhew, "whose name is fitness itself". Unfortunately, in opening the motel's leisure centre, he was required to add a few more lines. The manner of their delivery revealed his future is likely to remain in swimming.

Certainly his presence did not add any zest to a programme which in its twenty-second year needs some invigorating resuscitation. (It does seem indicative of the rot that the affable Lorraine had to have swimming lessons for the scene where she falls into the pool.)

There is something inhumanly less than all the actors and their lines. The formula is as overpowering as cheap scent and smothering any smell of real life. (In fact each character gives the impression of going about with a can of hair-spray in the blazer pocket.) Even the post-plant look fake.

After *Crossroads*, *EastEnders* (BBC1) seems admirable in every respect and deserving of its unfairly calculated viewing figures (including repeats, about 21 million). Also shot on video, which belies the myth that you can only bring drama to life on film — it is well acted, well written (of the scriptwriters John Barrington has a particularly fine ear for dialogue) and very well cut, knowing exactly when the script cannot do the work of the actor.

While the action of *Crossroads* is largely circumscribed by the motel, *EastEnders* takes place around a square we hardly ever see — in the lanternette (where Dnt campy presides like a de-camped dowager duchess), the cafe, the supermarket, the kitchens and the pub. Each location takes the place of the entire forum and has its own determining influence on events.

In episode 120 it was high noon at the Queen Vic. Michelle, having played Cupid for Ian and pink, pouting Sharon, feels like a wet weekend. When she decides after all to marry Lofly, her father concludes it must have been Lofly — "an accident looking for something to happen", he deviously puts it — who made her pregnant. He is not pleased and waits at the bar to give him a piece of his fuddled mind.

What makes *EastEnders* so effective is that the temptations of modern life are admitted and explored. Yet, while the action is driven by characters dropping like flies from the path of simple virtue, there is an underlying fabric of conventional morality which is subtly disguised and delivered as homespun.

Nicholas Shakespeare



Cinema
Masterpiece of enchanting fidelity

A Room With a View (PG)
Curzon, Mayfair

Heartbreakers (18)
Cannon Tottenham Court Road

Having already adapted Henry James (*The Europeans* and *The Bostonians*) and Jean Rhys (*Quartet*), the producer-director-writer triumvirate of Ismail Merchant, James Ivory and Ruth Praver Jhabvala turn to E.M. Forster. *A Room With a View* is their masterpiece.

It cannot have been the easiest book to adapt. The comedy is so delicate and so personal to the young Forster, a mixture of sophistication and naive wonderment after his own first trip abroad; the observation of manners is so precisely situated in its own period; the central theme of young Lucy Honeychurch's spiritual emancipation from the tight but subtle coils of Edwardian convention is so exactly traced. Yet the film miraculously catches it all. There is an anxious moment near the start where the film changes the permutations of who walks out with whom that fateful morning in Florence; but it works, and from then on fidelity to Forster is absolute.

Ruth Praver Jhabvala adapts the original dialogue almost without change. Forster, who in his lifetime resisted having his novels put on the screen, proves a faultless film-writer. The talk is as shrewd and funny and easy in actors' mouths as on the page. Still more remarkable is James Ivory's ability faithfully to translate

into pictures the nuances and comedy of Forster's description. The remembered phrases become images and gestures. The film is punctuated with chapter-headings like those of the book, serving at once to acknowledge the literary source and sustain a distancing, ironic commentary.

"I liked the characters and I liked the scenes", Ivory explains with laudable simplicity. In John Huston's phrase, "the trick is in the casting", and this is a skill in which the Merchant-Ivory team always excels. Helena Bonham-Carter joins the succession of new actresses perfectly cast to roles that their films have introduced. She is Forster's Lucy indeed, the innocent rebel seriously confused by her own change from tomboy into woman and the onset of unrecogized desire. The performance falls short only in one respect: the loose vowels and uncertain consonants of a late 20th-century accent sit awkwardly in a period film as an anachronistic hat. Drama schools now need to teach classic English diction alongside other archaic skills like fencing.

Daniel Day-Lewis's period diction is a model, but then so is his entire performance as Cecil, the cold, affected, spoiled, ascetic fiancé who suddenly softens into likeable, vulnerable humanity when Lucy finds courage to throw him over. Day-Lewis has the rare ability to change beyond recognition, inside and out, with every role. Cecil has little in common with the young Londoner he played in *My Beautiful Laundrette*.

It is invidious though to single out performances in a cast as faultless as any cast could be: it includes a robust Denholm Elliott and dourly romantic Julian Sands as the Emersons, father and son; Judi Dench's florid Miss

"The trick is in the casting": Helena Bonham-Carter, joining the company's succession of new actresses perfectly chosen as Lucy Honeychurch in *A Room With a View*; and Simon Callow's Reverend Beebe (left), bland and clumsy and intimidating more than meets the eye, with Rupert Graves's sweetly sparky Freddy Honeychurch



Lavish; Rosemary Leach's Mrs Honeychurch; Rupert Graves's sweetly sparky Freddy; and Simon Callow's Reverend Beebe, bland and clumsy and intimidating something more than meets the eye.

Maggie Smith's Cousin Charlotte is also a marvel: a poor, dried-up, apologetic, unloving thing, bottling up the romance and sentiment and love that in the end she cannot keep from tumbling out. Maybe the ultimate strength of all these characterizations is that Ivory exactly shares Forster's faith that everyone, however comic or awful or snobbish he may seem, has some good in him, some redeeming human quality. Everyone except, of course, the Reverend Mr Eager (Patrick Godfrey), the enemy of love.

Ivory has a new director of photography (Tony Pierce-Roberts, who filmed *Moonlighting* and *A Private Function*) but his ability to capture the atmosphere of a place and time are unaltered. The oppressive serenity of the village of Summer Street is as real as the dusty, antique mystery of Florence or the shabby gentility of the Pension Bortolini; and all are precisely pinned down to the year 1908. There is an extraordinary sense of danger, emotional as well as physical, in the scene of the murder in the Piazza Signoria. On the fatal rural excursion when Lucy is kissed — an event in its small way as traumatic as what happened in the Malabar Caves — there is the same sense as in Renoir's *Partie de campagne* that everyone has been touched by some mischievous erotic daemon of the place.

Adaptation can be a perilous road for films, but Merchant-Ivory-Jhabvala have achieved the near-impossible: without a moment's betrayal of their original, they have

created an independent work that is irresistibly enchanting.

Heartbreakers is a comedy of manners set half the world and three-quarters of a century away from *A Room With a View*, shrewdly recording the mores of Los Angeles, 1984. It is about two friends in their thirties, one a Bohemian artist, Blue (Peter Coyote), the other, Eli (Nick Mancuso), the heir to a successful garments firm. In the course of the film Blue moves from being broke and deserted by his wife to a successful exhibition and a new conquest, while the carefree Eli is beaten down by the death of his father and defeat in love.

In the end they are both natural failures — Blue the victim of the greedy epistom of his relationships, Eli of inability ever finally to commit himself to the emotional relationships he so badly wants — and both are imprisoned by the obligatory *machismo* which prevents them ever acknowledging their emotions. Their adventures and relationships lead them in the end to a cathartic though presumably temporary moment of recognition and revelation, when they yield their defences to admit to each other their mutual jealousy and affection.

Heartbreakers is the fourth shoe-string feature film by Bobby Roth, as producer, writer and director, and convincingly catches the mood and discontent of a specific social and age group of middle-class, West Coast America. The people who surround Blue and Eli have the same solidity as the vogueish, real-life Los Angeles settings. Mancuso's necessarily less flamboyant performance admirably complements Coyote, as excellent as always.

David Robinson

Theatre
Audible sincerity

Time
Dominion

Up in the Andromeda galaxy one Lord Melchisedic, whose business is to monitor the state of the universe, decides the time has come to put planet Earth on trial for its continued existence.

He arranges for a deputiation of national leaders to represent their delinquent globe; but the message is intercepted by one Captain Ebony, formerly the ruler of now-obliterated Pirate Star, who has been filling in time as a San Francisco disc-jockey. Nothing, Ebony thinks, is more certain to guarantee the death penalty than the appearance of politicians in the High Court of the Universe; so he sends Cliff Richard and a backing group instead, before gatecrashing the hearing as a character witness.

Such is the basis of Dave Clark's musical, which sets a new record in the gap between imaginative poverty and Babylonian material resources. I am willing to believe that Mr Clark, and his co-writers David Soames and Jeff Daniels, are as genuinely in fear of the millennium as the year 999. The show's sincerity is not in doubt; but everything else is.

Its main claim is as a special-effects event challenging the cinema on its home ground. John Napier, the reigning wizard in this department, sets out to transform the Dominion into a space-ship and then to unveil the wonders of Andromeda. This means first a deafening and blinding environmental blast-off whose main impact on the spectator is one of acute physical discomfort. Then there descends an object resembling a giant purple pancake, on which the blinking travellers take their place, and see three judges cantilevered in on levitated throne-backed like boudoir pipe-organs.

The stage too can levitate, and turn into an upright disc with traps serving as platforms for the cast. Also, as the supreme revelation, there is a giant bespangled Easter egg which opens to reveal a hologram of Laurence Olivier — as the spirit of universal knowledge — dispensing vatic

wisdom to the enraptured. The drawback is that all such effects constitute only one trick. If it is used for its own sake, you merely sit back waiting for the next. With, say, *Starlight Express*, the set was organically engaged in the action, so repetition did not matter. Here it is simply a box of tricks; and there is an absurd disparity between the sophistication of the mechanism and the feebleness of its theatrical impact.

As for the plot, it is put together like a standard courtroom drama dressed up in the comic-sinister costumes of synthetic mythology. Melchisedic, attended by a party of galactic knights at arms, comes on as prosecutor. Chris Wilder (alias Mr Richard) and his party look on, dropping lines such as "It's crazy — it must be a dream" and getting snubbed by the judges, who seem to have been whiling away their spatial eternity by reading Agatha Christie.

The prosecutor gets a song: followed, after a nervy start by a defence song from Mr Richard. As few of the words are audible, it is hard to see how the trial is going. Ebony, with his own dancing group, whose costume much extends the definition of parti-coloured tights, takes the stand, and comes close to saying that, although the world is a rough old place, it stands a chance of being redeemed by a rock music which brings people together.

The judges nevertheless decide on a death sentence; but — surprise, surprise — before they push the button Laurence Olivier materializes and we all get another chance. Olivier, reduced to a huge, hairless, domed head, delivers lines like "We can all know everything without knowing why" in tones of regretfully patient serenity that almost makes them seem to mean something.

Much passion goes into Mr Richard's singing, none of which got through to me; his acting consists mainly of shows of personal modesty. The dancing in Larry Fuller's production is extremely energetic and, except where the two contrasted groups finally move in unison, divorced from dramatic context, if you will pardon the expression.

Irving Wardle

Recital
Gedda/Parsons
Wigmore Hall

By eight o'clock it was time for the interval, and an hour later it was all over. But no one could describe as less than wholeheartedly generous Nicolai Gedda's long-awaited recital. It seemed as if he had been deliberately keeping time in reserve for a trail of encores. The encores were offered very much in the spirit of personal gifts not only to Charles Osborne, for whom the recital was given, but to a hall full of admirers, each of whom doubtless remembered with affection a different facet of his 35 years of singing.

Among the encores was Lalo's "Aubade" and a Swedish folksong one. It seemed for Osborne and one for himself. But the true climax of the evening came with Lenky, the role in which he last appeared four years ago at Covent Garden. His aria from *Eugene Onegin* drew the listener into the heart of the opera itself, so concentrated was its telescoping of past and present, so perceptive Geoffrey Parsons's accompaniment.

meant so luminous the central *mezzo-roce* in which the song turns towards Olga.

That same meticulous control of half-voice had made Tchaikovsky's "At the Ball" seem like one long melodic sigh. It pointed, too, another key reason for the brevity of the recital. For, just as Gedda had cunningly kept time in hand, so he was throughout the most discreet guardian of his own vocal resources. The same elegant artistry which has characterized every role of his career was now turned, in his sixty-first year, to the voice itself.

It was a tense start. Respighi's "Notte" and of all things, Donizetti's "Una furvia lagrima" sang the voice in; and Gedda's relaxed manner (his Bizet was positively Chevalier-like) belied the vocal tension and the somewhat anxiously shallow-breathed Gounod salon songs.

For Amrose Thomas, the voice came into its own: brilliance of timing and of that ringing, still resilient high register, with a sense of tenderness compressed into urgency, made his "Adieu, Mignon" a fitting emblem of his art.

Hilary Finch

Concert

Robert Taub
Wigmore Hall

Opportunities to hear any of Milton Babbitt's music are less rare than they used to be, but still rare enough to be worth a welcome. Robert Taub's piano recital included the European premiere of *Tableaux*, which Babbitt composed in 1973; less than 10 minutes long, it makes the kind of extreme demands on the player which ensure that performances do not happen every week.

As always with Babbitt, the strict (yet in some ways not so strict) techniques of construction at work in the piece seem to heighten the element of fantasy rather than to suppress it. Music has a way of operating in terms of such paradoxes. *Tableaux* is undoubtedly scrupulously and beautifully composed, although it seemed not to make as clear an impression here as one might have expected. Taub's playing of this admittedly relentlessly difficult music rather lacked light and shade; it was also, I think, fractionally over-pedalled (or was the Wigmore Hall's clangorous acoustic

playing its tricks again?). Still, the inclusion of a piece by Babbitt in a concert of this kind is in itself a statement of intent, and the rest of Taub's programme provided ample evidence of an intelligent and penetrating musical mind at work. Technically, there was the odd unrelaxed moment, but only the odd one. In Beethoven's "Waldstein" Sonata, the first movement's brusque manner was enhanced by a startlingly quick tempo, while the Rondo's interaction of long, singing paragraphs and impetuous passagework came across with unusual and convincing clarity.

Taub also refused to take anything for granted in Chopin's B minor Sonata — there were some risky gear-changes in the presto finale, but not at the expense of the music's grandeur — and he found a vein of thoughtful lyricism for three of Brahms's Op 116 pieces (particularly the Intermezzo in E major) which suited them perfectly. Even the Liszt "La campanella", one of a hatful of encores, somehow sounded more wistful than virtuosic.

Malcolm Hayes

Opera

Fiery vocal drama

Semiramide
Covent Garden

It is 60 years since an opera was last given a concert performance at Covent Garden. Enjoying the sound but not the pictures of Rossini's *Semiramide*, one could feel little regret about the absence of staging. For one thing, it is difficult to know where a producer might introduce the obligatory barbed wire and machine-guns.

More seriously, *Semiramide* is essentially "night-ingle" opera: a Babylonian epic of runs, trills and arpeggios that create their own fiery, dangerous drama which far outclasses that in the creaking old plot. Rossini's inspiration is not uniformly good, but the best set-pieces offer vocal thrills worth the wait. But wait we must: Act 1 alone exceeds two hours.

The cast assembled here did not disappoint. In particular June Anderson as Semiramide, the queen who has despatched her husband and taken a more than professional interest in her army commander Arsace (who regrettably turns out to be her son), made an outstanding Royal Opera debut.

A vibrant soprano in the pink of condition, she is capable of producing both scintillating coloratura and, in the final prayer, an appealingly veiled half-tone. She introduced the marvellous Act 1 aria "Bel raggio lusinghiero" with rich-timbred flourishes, melted stylishly into the languid chorus melody, exposed a slightly under-powered bottom in the subsequent gymnastics, but emphasized her secure top register by interpolating a couple of high Es without any noticeable strain.

One worrying aspect is a seeming inability to reflect with vocal colouring her character's changing moods; even recollection of her husband's gruesome demise brought little perceptible change in delivery. This was particularly evident when she was in proximity to Marilyn



June Anderson as Semiramide: an outstanding house debut

There are further performances tomorrow and Tuesday, with Radio 3 broadcast on April 20.

Richard Morrison

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Fall in pound and oil 'will cut jobless by 250,000'

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

STOCK MARKET FT 30 Share 140.5 (+25.0) FT-SE 100 1690.3 (+31.3) USM (Datastream) 118.4 (-0.27) THE POUND US Dollar 1.4630 (+0.002) W German mark 3.4095 (-0.0049) Trade-weighted 75.9 (+0.1)

Evered bid 'not likely'

Analysts believe Evered Holdings, the engineering group revitalized by the Abdallah brothers, Raschid and Osama, has abandoned plans to bid for the much larger TI Group...

Burmah sale

Burmah Oil has sold its Bahamas oil terminal to American interests for \$1 million (£684,000) on completion and up to \$10 million deferred...

RFD rebuff

RFD Group has rejected the £21.9 million offer from Wardle Storey, the plastic sheet manufacturer, as "opportunistic and inadequate"...

Laing lift

John Laing, the building company, lifted profits from £30.3 million to £34.1 million before tax in the year to December 31...

Mowlam up

John Mowlam, the laboratory equipment and building company, lifted profits from £10.6 million to £13.1 million before tax in the year to December 31...

Ontario 'no'

An Ontario supreme court judge rejected a request by Olympia and York Developments for an injunction to block Hiram Walker Resources from selling its liquor business to Allied-Lyons...

Bid extended

Volvo, the Swedish car group, has extended the offer period for W Sonesson to April 21.

Shares rush

Applications for shares in River and Mercantile Geared Capital Trust closed yesterday oversubscribed. The basis of allocation will be announced today.

PR breach

The Institute of Public Relations says that Miss Maureen Smith, former deputy chairman of Good Relations, breached the institute's code of professional conduct when she sold her shares in GR without informing the board...

The fall in oil prices and the exchange rate since last autumn clearly benefits the British economy, according to the Bank of England. In special simulations in its Quarterly Bulletin published yesterday, the Bank suggests that the recent fall in both oil and the pound combine to lower its forecast for unemployment by over a quarter of a million by 1988.

The Bank based its calculations on a fall in the oil price of just under \$12 a barrel since last autumn, together with a 9 per cent fall in sterling's trade-weighted exchange rate - although the pound has in fact risen slightly since these simulations were carried out. Growth in national output is 1/2 per cent higher than it would have been in 1986, and a full 1 per cent higher in 1987. Inflation is between 1/4 and 1/2 per cent lower than it would have been.

Bank signals restraint

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PR firms call off merger

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Merchant banks fall behind in the City salaries league

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economies, whose price levels may be as much as 3 per cent lower than they would otherwise have been after the effects have fed through, according to the Bank. However, it points out that both consumers and the company sector (excluding the oil companies) benefit from a combination of lower prices and improved competitiveness. The Bank also argues that over the longer term, the United Kingdom "should probably be regarded as a net importer of oil", and that the long-term effect of lower oil prices is favourable. It says that the ratio of oil reserves to oil consumption in Britain is very much lower than for the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries - "indeed it is lower than for the world as a whole".

Schroder attacks Lloyds bid tactics

The merchant banking adviser of Standard Chartered Bank, J Henry Schroder Wagg, said yesterday that it was complaining to the Takeover Panel about the behaviour of Lloyds Bank over its bid for Standard.

F H Tomkins bids £178m for Pegler

F H Tomkins, the fast-growing industrial conglomerate, has launched an ambitious £178 million all-paper bid for Pegler-Hattersley, which, if successful, will more than double the group's size.

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Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Almost the final solution for JMB

Disposing of Johnson Matthey Bankers was never going to be the clean operation the Bank of England always insisted it was. After one or two minor disposals, the main element in the return of JMB to the private sector was initiated yesterday, when Westpac, the ambitious Australian group, agreed to pay about £40 million for the basic bullion and banking businesses of JMB, giving its Mase-Westpac subsidiary a seat in the London gold dealing ring for a £17 million premium over net assets bought.

Notably, however, Westpac has not bought the book of bad and doubtful debts that brought JMB to disaster, parent Johnson Matthey group to its knees and the Bank of England to its biggest crisis since the secondary bank failure of 1973-74. Those doubtful debts ruled out a clean sale, because none of the 40 banks which expressed an interest wanted to take on the interminable process of litigation both against and on behalf of JMB that has grown up as the Bank of England has tried to recover the money.

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SIMON ENGINEERING PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT Group results for the year ended 31 December 1985. Turnover 539,350 503,101. Profit on ordinary activities before tax 26,126 24,223. Profit on ordinary activities after tax 19,697 17,168. Profit before extraordinary items 18,242 14,678. Extraordinary items (6,640) (1,105). Profit for the financial year 9,602 13,573. Dividends 5,487 4,833. Profit retained 4,115 8,740. Earnings per ordinary share: Before extraordinary items 29.2p 25.5p. After extraordinary items 15.2p 23.6p. * Pre-tax profits increased in a difficult year. * Total dividend increased by 6.25%. * Improvements in most operations. * Strong balance sheet will complement prospects for future growth. SIMON ENGINEERING PLC Cheadle Heath, Stockport, Cheshire SK3 0RT. Process Plant Contracting; Engineering Services; Food Engineering; Manufacturing; Merchandising and Storage; Oil Services.

MARKET SUMMARY STOCK MARKETS New York Dow Jones 1780.77 (+2.15) Tokyo Nikkei Dow 15203.57 (+93.39) Hong Kong Hang Seng 1769.57 (+6.23) Amsterdam AEX 268.0 (same) Sydney ASX 1175.5 (+41.8) Frankfurt Commerzbank 2164.5 (-29.5) Brussels General 818.0 (-1.92) Paris CAC 3702.5 (-3.6) Zurich SKA General 524.70 (same) CURRENCIES London: New York £: \$1.4630 €: \$1.4630 3-month Euribank 10 1/8-10 1/8 3-month Euribank 10 1/8-10 1/8 buying rate US: Prime Rate 9% Federal Funds 7.00% 3-month Treasury Bills 6.05-6.03% 30-year bonds 12 1/2-1 1/4

MAIN PRICE CHANGES RISES: BICC 380p (+18) Glaxo 1015p (+22) ICI 334p (+17) P&O 350p (+12) Plessey 222p (+10) Grand Met 418p (+13) BAT 418p (+45) Pegler Hattersley 310p (+38) F H Tomkins 310p (+20) J Laing 411p (+210) Oxford Inst 565p (+25) Sweets 310p (+20) Uni Scientific 153p (+15) McKerrin 224p (+11) Amersal 509p (+14) Jaguar 478p (+25) Argyl 378p (+20) Wm Baird 615p (+45) Burnham 365p (+27) Hursting Pet 120p (+12) Boase Messini 349p (+30) Elders 235p (+22) FALLS: Cookson 520p (-28) SGB Gp 348p (-14) Smiths Ind 291p (-13) Kleinwort 765p (-23) GOLD London Fixing AM \$338.15 pm \$337.70 Close \$338.00-338.50 (2330.75-231.25) New York: Comet \$338.20-338.70

WALL STREET

New York (Agencies) - Stocks made a strong advance yesterday afternoon in a rally led by semiconductor, money centre bank and tobacco shares.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 15.68 to close at 1,794.30.

There were 1,082 issues advancing, 528 declining and 428 unchanged. Volume totalled 185,360,000 yesterday compared with 156,250,000 on Wednesday.

The New York Stock Exchange index was up 1.39 to 136.42. The average price per share increased 42 cents.

Table with columns for AMR, Allied Signal, Amstar, etc., showing stock prices and changes.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table with columns for Sterling Spot and Forward Rates, showing market rates and forward rates for various currencies.

Starting index compared with 1975 was up at 75.9 (day's range 75.75-75.5).

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOPEX and Exim. *Lloyds Bank International

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table with columns for Base Rates, Discount Market Loans, Treasury Bills, etc., showing interest rates.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Table showing Euro money deposit rates for various currencies and terms.

GOLD

Table showing gold prices and related financial data.

ECGD

Table showing ECGD (Export Credit Guarantee Department) data.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table showing London financial futures prices for various instruments.

CANADIAN PRICES

Table showing Canadian market prices for various commodities.

COMMODITIES

Currencies traded within narrow limits in reduced activity. Dealers said the Group of Five ministers' apparent satisfaction with dollar levels did a lot to stabilize the market, and operators were looking for a new lead.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table showing dollar spot rates for various countries.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table showing other sterling rates for various currencies.

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

Table showing London commodity exchange prices for various goods.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Table showing London metal exchange prices for various metals.

ALUMINIUM

Table showing aluminum prices and related data.

LONDON MEAT FUTURES

Table showing London meat futures prices for various types of meat.

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

Table showing London grain futures prices for various grains.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

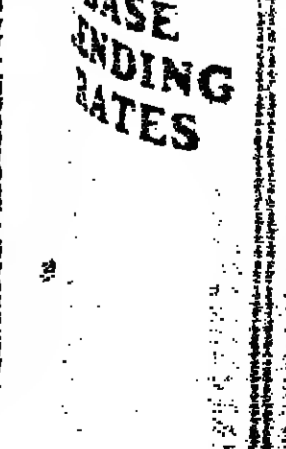
Table showing investment trusts data for various funds.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table showing financial trusts data for various funds.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Large table containing unit trust information, including fund names, managers, and performance data.



TEMPUS

Bumper year for RTZ despite weak markets

Rio Tinto-Zinc's 9.5 per cent increase in attributable profits to £236 million, with earnings per share up by a similar proportion to 76.1p, so distorted by currency conversions as to disguise the true extent of the company's achievement. Any mining company which even stands still at the moment is doing well. One which generates almost £1 billion in cash is doing very well indeed.

The most vivid illustration of the currency problem is that costs dropped sharply from £5.23 billion to £4.53 billion almost solely because of the translation effect. But the crucial fact about RTZ is that, with the unfortunate and marginal exception of Cornwall, its many businesses around the world are strong and profitable.

The recent re-rating of the shares was in large part a recognition of this. Any improvement in metal prices, particularly copper and aluminium, would have a dramatic impact on profits. For the moment, however, RTZ has to put up with poor metal prices, which depressed the metals sector's contribution to 21 per cent of earnings. The exception was uranium. Rossing made net profits of £26.5 million after benefiting from strong demand from electricity utilities and from sales being denominated in dollars.

So, after the peculiar effect of currency translation Africa clipped in with net attributable profits of no less than £338 million on a turnover of just £314 million.

Industry's share of profits also fell, this time to 48 per cent. While cement prices went up for the first time in three years, borax, glass and the engineering side all suffered from slack demand. The weaker dollar did not help profits from America.

But to the rescue came energy, chiefly in the shape of the 29.8 per cent stake in Enterprise Oil. The first full year earnings from Enterprise came to £16.3 million, although RTZ Oil and Gas was more or less unchanged at £14.6 million.

This year's lower oil prices will obviously depress earnings in the energy sector, but they could also present RTZ with some tempting takeover targets, and the group as a whole should gain from lower mining costs and increased world economic activity.

With the dividend up by 10 per cent to a total of 22p, giving a yield of 3 per cent, the shares are not underrated.

Burmah Oil

The sale of the Bahamas terminal, announced yesterday, must be regarded as something of a coup for Burmah. Anything short of outright sale would probably have left the company with unlimited commitments to pay rent to the Bahamian Government for the terminal site. As it is, Burmah has taken an extraordinary loss of £21 million in 1985.

With the disposal of five tankers at a further cost of £9.1 million and the write-down of its two remaining ships to scrap value, Burmah can fairly be said to have extricated itself from the legacy of over-expansion in shipping dating from the early 1970s. Even the two remaining ships are breaking even on a cash basis, as the costs of lay-up of the one are being met from the charter of the other.

Burmah has been busy restructuring elsewhere. The

sale in 1985 of most of Quinton Hazell, Rawplugs and other non-core businesses was complemented with strategic acquisitions in specialty chemicals. Potential future losses on the LNG contracts are being made at the rate of about £4 million a year for the five years beyond 1998 for which the carriers have no contracts.

This leaves Burmah with a bit of restructuring outstanding. Sales of the rump of Quinton Hazell, QH Automotive and Partco, and other businesses including Maccess and Kerry Ultrasonics, are expected to raise up to £40 million in 1986. Oil production contributed 12 per cent of profits in 1985, and this is likely to be well down in 1986 as this is in decline and, of course, the oil price is much lower. The company looks to be in good shape financially. Cash flows in 1986 will be healthy without the drain of shipping and the Bahamas terminal. Write-offs are probably at an end, and debt is down to 30 per cent of shareholders' funds.

A bid will be unwelcome, but hungry predators could return with renewed appetites. The stockmarket seems to think so. The shares have bucked the trend in oils, rising 26p to 363p on yesterday's news.

Laing/Mowlem

Yesterday's news from two of Britain's leading building contractors, John Laing and Mowlem, centred largely around their non-contracting businesses, such as the state of the industry. To keep growing, both companies have had to diversify on a large scale.

Mowlem's profits from construction fell from £7.6 million to £6.4 million, but it managed to lift group profits from 10.6 million to £13.1 million. John Laing however increased its building and engineering profit, and that contributed to increased profits of £34.1 million, up from £30.3 million, before tax.

The two are however not strictly comparable as Mowlem takes profits as each contract progresses, whereas Laing tends not to take any until the end of a contract.

Both were glad of their newer activities. In Mowlem's case Buehler International, its American laboratory equipment company, which it floated last year, contributed £5.6 million which is more than half the pre-interest total.

And while it has been successful in gaining new building work, there is now more emphasis on management contracting. In addition there is the new excitement of various docklands developments including Stotport.

Whereas Mowlem has only recently entered the house-building market through the acquisition of Booth, Laing is an established housebuilder and last year sold 2,200 homes very profitably. It has great hopes of its property business and other new areas.

The market seems to prefer Mowlem's diversifications. At 412p its shares are trading on a multiple of 11.8 prospective earnings, which represents a two-point premium to Laing's rating with its "A" shares at 408p.

That could reflect investors' worries about Saudi Arabia, but Laing has had to charge £6.98 million below the line last year and this should be the end of the matter.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Institutions flood back as outlook brightens

Institutional investors returned in force yesterday, pushing the FT 30 share index back over the 1400 level.

They were encouraged by the cheerful outlook for inflation and interest rates and a flood of favourable statements from a broad spread of companies.

After four days of drifting prices in which the FT 30 had fallen nearly 50 points, it gained 25 points to close at 1401.5 while the FT-SE 100 share index raced away to close at 1690.3, a gain of 31.3 points on the day.

Industrials bounced back with Glaxo 52p higher at 1015p and ICI 17p to the good at 934p. BICC was up 18p to 358p on news of an Australian listing for a subsidiary, while British Telecom recouped 6p to 268p now that the final call has been made.

Tobacco companies were to the fore following an American federal court ruling favouring the producers in the cigarette warnings case. BAT Industries went up 45p to 418p while Grand Met, at 418p and Rothmans at 154p improved 13p and 6p respectively.

Takeover speculators were given their daily boost by an FT Tomkins bid for Fagles. Hattersley, Pegler, a strong market in recent weeks, was

ahead another 88p to 560p while Tomkins was up 39p to 310p.

There was evidence of American buying in certain quarters. Jaguar, for example, jumped 40p to 478p and Lex Service Group was another good spot at 381p, up 14p.

Of the numerous company statements crossing the tapes, Ruberoid at 271p, Hewden Stuart 66p, Jaha Mowlem 412p, Evered 310p, William Baird 615p, and Beamrose 183p, advanced between 8p and 45p.

In contrast Cookson dropped 28p to 320p on disappointment with the 30 per cent increase in earnings and Rio Tinto-Zinc also failed to please at 719p, down 5p.

Oils picked up with the spot price, helped by good results and the sale of a loss-making terminal by Burmah, 27p firmer at 364p. Hunting Petroleum gained 12p more to 120p on further reflection of Wednesday's figures.

Profit-taking clipped 5p from Turner & Newall at 226p and Smith Industries lost another 13p to 291p on further reaction to Wednesday's half-time statement.

Weir Group, of which F H Tomkins has been mentioned as a possible predator, fell 6p to 134p but better than expected profits added 2p to Simon Engineering at 228p.

McKechnie, another speculative favourite, improved 11p to 224p ahead of next

Thursday's interim. Apricot celebrated a new contract with a 7p rise to 94p and Amstrad continued to benefit from the Sinclair deal, 508p up 14p. Speculative interest stimulated Audiotronic at 14p up 24p.

Electricals climbed out of the doldrums with GEC at 198p, Plessey 222p and Racal 194p, all between 8p and 10p better. United Scientific recovered 15p to 153p on the settlement of the Alvis strike, and Oxford Instruments, at 565p, up 25p, continued to benefit from the recent acquisition.

In builders, John Laing was up 21p to 411p after a 13 per cent improvement. Caparo rallied 6p to 51p after yesterday's disappointing figures but losses took 5p from Grosvenor Group at 90p.

Seusa, reporting later this month, put on 5p to 158p amid vague talk of a bid from Automated Security.

Firm food retailers featured through Samuel Montagu. Argyl Group at 378p up 20p. Stores rallied 5p to 10p with W H Smith up 6p to 322p.

Properties had several firm spots with Stockley active at 83p, up 6p on hopes of a bid from P & O, 12p higher at 550p.

Banks were largely neglected, no doubt worried about possible further American failure.

RECENT ISSUES

Table with columns for EQUITIES and RIGHTS ISSUES, listing various companies and their share prices.

Table with columns for EQUITIES and RIGHTS ISSUES, listing various companies and their share prices.

Clearers poised for wider role in Japan

From David Smith, Tokyo

British banks are set to play a major role in the opening up of the Japanese securities industry. County Bank Asia, a subsidiary of National Westminster, has already been invited to apply for a securities licence in Tokyo.

Subsidiaries of the other clearing banks are expected to be included in the next round of licences, towards the end of this year.

Japanese law, specifically Article 65 of the Banking and Securities Regulations, requires that banks own no more than 50 per cent of securities operations. Because of this National Westminster has gone into partnership with BP and the Swire Group to set up the Hong Kong-registered County Bank Asia.

Lloyds Bank, through its Lloyds Merchant Bank arm, intends to specialise in the Japanese bond market, after establishing an appropriate 50 per cent-owned subsidiary.

Barclays will merge the Tokyo representative offices of Barclays Merchant Bank and de Zoete & Bevan in June, while Midland will operate through Samuel Montagu.

Both banks have reached tentative agreement with as yet unnamed partners for subsidiary status.

Currently, the four major British banks all stress different areas of activity. National Westminster is first in the securities field and is actively expanding its foreign exchange dealing operations in

Tokyo, with particular emphasis on Swaps. Barclays is the only one of four the clearers to have trust banking status in Japan.

Mr Michael Tomalin, Barclays general manager for Japan, sees the management of certain types of non-discretionary funds, the so-called Tokkin funds, as a particularly promising area.

Lloyds is strong on export finance in Japan, which will be underlined if the proposed takeover of Standard Chartered goes through. Standard Chartered has four branches in Japan to two of Lloyds.

Midland is the only one of the four to have a Japanese national heading its local operation. Mr Kenichi Yoshida, Midland has been successful in managing Japanese investment in Britain.

Ex-statemens urge UK to join EMS

Former national leaders meeting in Japan, yesterday called on Britain to contribute to world economic stability by joining the European Monetary System immediately.

The former leaders, including Herr Helmut Schmidt of West Germany, Mr Pierre Trudeau of Canada, Mr Takeo Suda of Japan and Señor Adolfo Suarez of Spain, said

national heading its local operation. Mr Kenichi Yoshida, Midland has been successful in managing Japanese investment in Britain.

THIS BOOKLET SHOWS WAYS TO OPEN MORE DOORS TO MORE JOBS.

Here is a booklet which brings together details of the whole range of schemes designed to get more people into work. It's called 'Action for Jobs' - and brings together initiatives in the fields of training, employment and enterprise.

The booklet shows the number of schemes in operation - probably far more than you thought. It explains how they relate to each other to create conditions in which employment and businesses can grow and flourish.

Training for today and tomorrow There is an important range of schemes to enable people to acquire the skills, and firms to acquire the skilled workforce, essential for tomorrow's industry and commerce.

The booklet emphasises the right vocational training for school-leavers, schemes for adult workers to be trained and re-trained, and includes details of help for industry - especially small firms - to enable them to train their workforce. And keep them trained.

Creating new work opportunities There are also schemes which help those who have been out of work for a long time to get back into work again on projects which benefit them and the communities in which they live.

Encouraging enterprise The creation of flourishing small businesses is a major factor in the development of our economy, and for generating new employment opportunities. This booklet explains the various ways in which enterprise is being helped and encouraged to overcome the many difficulties and obstacles.

One thing is common to all: they are designed to help people help themselves and create jobs for the future.

For your copy of the 'Action for Jobs' booklet send in the coupon below, or pick one up at your main Post Office, your local Jobcentre or local Unemployment Benefit Office.

Advertisement for 'Action for Jobs' booklet, featuring a grid of 24 icons representing different employment and training schemes such as Community Programme, Restart Programme, Job Search Scheme, etc.

To: Action for Jobs, Curzon House, 20-24 Lonsdale Road, London NW6 6RD. Please send me the 'Action for Jobs' booklet.

Form with fields for Name, Address, and Postcode.

RHM to amalgamate chocolate companies

Ranks Hovis McDougall is to amalgamate its three bulk chocolate manufacturing companies.

The new group will hold 60 per cent of the 45,000-tonne British market of bulk chocolate for further manufacture.

The Stewart & Arnold, Caxton Group - its turnover will be about £60 million - brings together the technical resources of the companies in a market which is facing increasing competition from French and Belgian imports.

Mr Colin White, group sales and marketing director, said:

"A number of companies on the Continent are starting to look at the UK market, where chocolate consumption is very high."

The group supplies chocolate and chocolate coatings to Nabisco, Lyons Maid and "Mr Kipling" cakes, and it produces own label confectionery products for Marks and Spencer, Fine Fare and the Argyl Group.

APPOINTMENTS

Ladbroke Group: Mr Michael B Hirst and Mr Jerry F O'Mahony have been appointed executive directors.

Ladbroke Racing: Mr Berjis Daver has become managing director, UK racing division.

Heritage Housewares: Mr Peter Cochrane has been named as a non-executive director.

G D Underwood: Mr Eric R Boxall has become financial director.

WonderWorld: Mr John Ferguson has become managing director and Mr George Walker has joined the board.

Sea Oil Homcor: Mr Howard Stapleton has been named as managing director.

Berwin Leighton: Mr J C Lowe, Mr J P Keffel and Miss J M Powell are to be partners.

BASE LENDING RATES

Table listing various banks and their base lending rates, such as ABN at 11.00%, Adam & Company at 11.00%, etc.

† Mortgage Base Rate.

Burmah

Preliminary results to 31 December 1985

1985 Another Successful Year

- Profit after tax up 43 per cent
- Dividend increased by 19 per cent

	1985 £ million	1984 £ million
Profit before tax	79.6	65.4
Profit after tax	52.1	36.5
Earnings per stock unit	34.9 pence	24.4 pence
Net gearing	30%	41%

Strategic Progress

New investment in Castrol and Speciality Chemicals exceeded £40 million. Bahamas Terminal sale, just announced, and earlier disposal of five tankers marks culmination of Burmah's strategy for crude oil shipping. £46 million proceeds from sale of several Quinton Hazell operations, Rawplup and other businesses.

The directors are recommending a net final dividend of 2.50p per £1 unit of ordinary stock. Together with the interim dividend paid last December, this will amount to the total of net ordinary dividends in respect of 1985 of 12.50p per £1 unit of ordinary stock. The net ordinary dividend is approved and for payment on 15 May 1986 to stockholders on the register on 15 May 1986.

The figures for the years to 31 December 1984 and 1985 respectively are each approved from the Statutory full accounts for the relevant period. While both levels of accounts are the subject of unqualified auditors' reports, any profit for the earlier year have to date been held with the Registrar of Companies. The annual Report and Accounts will be submitted on 1 May 1986. The AGM will be held in Glasgow on 20 May 1986.

The Burmah Oil Public Limited Company
Headquarters: Burmah House, Pipers Way, Swindon Wilt, SN3 1RE

Competition brings wealth of new ideas, says Bank

By Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

International financial markets have been transformed by the recent pace of innovation, according to the Bank of England.

The Bank's annual survey of developments in international banking and capital markets, published today in the *Quarterly Bulletin*, focuses on the "intense competition" between financial intermediaries in the securities market, which it argues has created pressure to innovate as a means of winning mandates and compensating for lower fees and spreads.

It lists five key innovations whose use developed markedly in 1985:

• **Note issuance facilities (NIFs)**, first arranged in 1981, but with the strongest growth taking place since 1984. In 1985, the Bank points out, \$33 billion of NIFs were arranged, bringing the total of underwritten NIFs in place to \$60 billion.

• **Eurocommercial paper facilities**, first developed towards the end of 1984. During 1985, the Bank calculates, at least \$16 billion of eurocommercial paper facilities were arranged.

• **Financial futures**. These, of course, are fairly long-established, but the range of contracts has increased. However, eurodollar interest rate contracts remain the most used in both the United States and the United Kingdom. According

ACTIVITY IN DEREGULATED MARKETS (1985)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Euroyen				
Fixed rate bond issues by non-residents of which:				
<i>dual currency bonds</i>	1,264	278	2,427	1,782
Bond issues by Japanese borrowers	—	—	2,183	612
Floating-rate notes	—	320	94	442
Credits for non-residents	—	—	63	70
			414	218
French francs				
Eurobonds	—	393	442	524
Italian lire				
Eurobonds	—	—	—	272
Deutschmark				
Floating-rate notes	—	1,084	179	1975
Zero-coupon bonds	—	163	—	72

to the Bank, these involved open interest of approaching \$200 billion in the two countries together by the end of 1985. The Bank also points to the development of forward rate contracts (FRAs) as a significant innovation in London.

• **Swaps**, where the market grew rapidly in both 1984 and 1985. By the end of 1985, there were estimated to be about \$200 billion of swaps outstanding, with the volume of interest rate swaps considerably exceeding other types.

• **Options**. Currency options, which have been traded on the Philadelphia Stock Exchange since 1982, were introduced on the London Stock Ex-

change and the London International Financial Futures Exchange in 1985. However, the Bank points out that the international bond markets have long provided instruments such as convertible bonds and equity warrants, or even capped floating-rate notes, with some of the same characteristics as options.

The Bank argues that worldwide deregulation has played its part, along with innovation, in bringing about a growing integration between what were formerly discrete market sectors. It lists a substantial programme of deregulation measures in the capital markets of several major economies in 1985, notably:

• Opening up by Japan of the euroyen and samurai bond markets.

• Measures to open up the franc eurobond market by the French Government in April, 1985, and the decision to permit a commercial paper market in France last December.

• Liberalization of the mark foreign bond sector in West Germany from last May.

• Further changes in Holland and Italy.

• Measures to facilitate the issue of short-term sterling bonds with maturities between one and five years in the United Kingdom.

The Bank says these changes have led to an increasing number of examples of the intermediation of capital flows between investors and borrowers in the same country through international markets. It points out that the development of interest rate and currency swap techniques have played a key role in the integration of markets, and discerns a possible "shift in attitudes" among market participants to "accepting and even favouring innovation as a continuing feature".

In the future, the Bank argues, changes in the economic environment may be met with new financial techniques more quickly than in the past. It points to growing interest in finance through the issue of short-term paper as a development of particular significance.

Embassy to spend £31m on its hotels

By Derek Harris,
Industrial Editor

Embassy, the Allied-Lyons subsidiary which is Britain's sixth largest hotel group, plans to spend £31 million over the next two years in its biggest ever drive to improve 32 of its 46 hotels around the country. Among the additions will be

sports and leisure facilities — indoor swimming pools, saunas, tennis and squash courts — 12 conference and meetings suites, plus more than 250 bedrooms. In the past three years,

Embassy has spent about £15 million on refurbishing as well as acquiring nine hotels. Thanks mainly to that investment, net profit after interest in the last full year climbed by half, Mr Struan Wiley, Embas-

sy Hotels' chairman, said.

The company's properties are now mainly three-star standard or above, the Piccadilly in Manchester being a five-star establishment in which another £1.5 million is being invested.

COMPANY NEWS

• **THOMAS ROBINSON & SON:** Mr Graham Rudd, the chairman, reports in his annual statement that prospects for the current year are encouraging.

• **HUNTING PETROLEUM SERVICES:** Final dividend of 6p, or the option of a scrip issue, making 8.5p (8p) for 1985. Turnover £283.4 million (£237.75 million). Profit on ordinary activities before tax £7.25 million (£3.19 million). Extraordinary items: debit of £5.17 million (credit £6.04 million).

• **DSC HOLDINGS:** The company is to buy the goodwill, fixed assets and stocks of Pollards Jewellers Services for £35,000 cash, plus a further payment of stocks at valuation. In 1985, Pollards earned a gross profit of £556,000 on sales of £1.14 million.

• **GOLDSMITHS GROUP:** The group has disposed of certain non-essential properties for £25,000 cash.

• **THOMAS BORTHWICK & SONS:** The company has sold its 76.61 per cent holding in Boucheries Bernard, which operates a chain of retail butchers in France, to Mr Gilbert Salmon. It will receive 42.2 million francs (£3.9 million), compared with a book value of £2.9 million.

• **BLUEVEL BROS:** Contracts have been exchanged for the sale of the land and buildings at Wolston, Warwickshire, for £250,000 cash.

• **Wm MOWAT AND SONS:** The board plans to raise £480,000 by a rights issue of 3 million new ordinary shares at 16p each on a three-for-one basis. After the issue, Mowat's capital will comprise 4 million ordinary shares of 10p each.

• **COMPCO HOLDINGS:** Terms have been agreed for the acquisition of the long leasehold interest in the Northern and Shell Building, Mill Harbour, London Enterprise Zone, Isle of Dogs. The price was £1.4 million cash.

• **PROMOTIONS HOUSE:** As WPP's offer has become unconditional as to acceptances, the board advises shareholders either to accept the offer or, if they want cash, to consider selling in the market.

• **BANRO INDUSTRIES:** Latest accounts show compensation of £25,000 paid to Mr D R Greenough, who relinquished executive duties on Dec. 31, 1985. This was paid as Mr Greenough had waived the right under his service agreement to 12 months' notice. He remains a director.



Preliminary results 1985.

Results	1985 £mn
Long-term business profit	21.72
Short-term business loss	(6.97)
Shareholders' net investment income	1.69
After tax results for the year	17.69
Total ordinary dividend for year	15.84

Dividend
The directors recommend a final dividend of 28.75p per ordinary share. Including the increased interim, the total ordinary dividend for the year will be 44p, at a cost of £15,840,000, against 38p for 1984.

New life business
Industrial Branch: 469,048 assurances issued for annual premiums of £31,576,000. New business production at a similar level to 1984.

Ordinary Branch: 109,159 life assurance and annuity policies issued (by the Company and its subsidiaries), increase of nearly 23 per cent on 1984. Total premiums £81,560,000, increase of 40 per cent on 1984.



District Offices throughout the UK.

Long-term premium income
Total long-term premium income, including subsidiaries, increased from £336,539,000 to £366,487,000.

Valuation surplus for parent company
Surplus for year £126,066,000 in the Ordinary Branch and £97,547,000 in the Industrial Branch. £200,974,000 (including £21,378,000 relating to cost of special Ordinary Branch reversionary bonus) allocated to policyholders. £21,718,000 allocated to shareholders (including £2,375,000 attributable to special bonus). Remainder carried forward.

Short-term business
Premium income increased from £82,835,000 to £86,955,000 in the General Branch and from £12,984,000 to £13,982,000 in the Marine, aviation and transport account.

General Branch underwriting loss £22,386,000, reduced to trading loss of £7,714,000 after crediting investment income and tax relief. £1,250,000 credited to the account from Claims Equalisation Reserve and £6,464,000 from Profit and Loss account.

Marine, aviation and transport transfer to Profit and Loss increased from £540,000 in 1984 to £747,000.

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WILLIAM BAIRD

Continued growth in 1985 gives confidence for the future

Summary of Results	1985 £m	1984 £m	%
Year ended 31st December			
Turnover	244.0	213.8	+14%
Profit before tax	14.5	11.8	+23%
Profit after tax	10.7	8.9	+20%
Earnings per share	56.8p	47.5p	+20%
Dividends per share (net)	19.415p	17.5p	+11%

The Chairman, Mr. T.D. Parr, CBE, reports:

- * Record profit achieved in 1985 with significantly increased contributions from both the textile and the engineering businesses.
- * Final dividend of 11.715p per share - up 11%.
- * One-for-two scrip issue recommended.
- * Further encouraging progress in Baird Textiles, including Daurimac, with increased profitability stemming from improvements in design and productivity.
- * Sound profit growth from the thermal insulation and other specialist engineering activities of Darchem.
- * The encouraging results achieved in recent years reflect the underlying strength of the Group's businesses and provide a sound basis for confidence in the future.

*The Annual Report 1985 will be posted to shareholders on 1st May 1986 and may be obtained after that date from
The Secretary, William Baird PLC, 79 Mount Street, London W1V 5HJ.*

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange. It does not constitute an invitation to the public to subscribe for or purchase any securities.

MERCURY INTERNATIONAL GROUP plc

(Incorporated and registered in England under the Companies Act 1948 to 1981 No. 1874-866)

Share capital of
Mercury International Group plc

Authorised	Issued and to be issued* fully paid
90,800,000	60,457,655
43,800,000	41,777,954
18,000,000	16,976,400
200,000	199,516
5,000,000	4,474,059
100,000,000	

* Assuming full acceptance of the offer dated 3rd March, 1986 for the shares of Mercury Securities plc. The number of Preference Shares to be issued, the basis of allocation and the rate of dividend have not yet been determined, but are expected to be announced in July 1986.

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for admission to the Official List of the Ordinary Shares and 'A' Convertible Preference Shares of Mercury International Group plc issued and to be issued.

Listing Particulars relating to Mercury International Group plc and the issue of Ordinary Shares and 'A' Convertible Preference Shares have been published and copies of such particulars may be obtained during normal business hours until 16th April, 1986 from the Companies Announcement Office, The Stock Exchange, 27, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3BT and on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) up to and including 24th April, 1986 from:

Rowe & Pitman,
1 Finsbury Avenue,
London, EC2M 2PA.

Cazenove & Co.,
12 Tokenhouse Yard,
London, EC3R 7AN.

Mercury International Group plc,
33 King William Street,
London, EC4R 9AS.

11th April, 1986

Daily Mail

Debt crisis refuses to go away

From Bailey Morris, Washington

In the four years since Mexico first shocked the world by declaring its inability to pay foreign debts, world finance ministers have had good reason to congratulate themselves.

The global financial system held together. The world debt problem, estimated at up to \$700 billion (£480 billion), was managed. There was even evidence that some important developing nations moved onto the right growth track in adopting necessary but painful domestic economic reforms.

But since 1982, the debt crisis, while managed, has refused to go away. Some leading financial experts predict the debt nightmare will never go away as long as capital flight and government excesses continue to plague Third World economies.

This was the message of a conference this week sponsored by Mr Jimmy Carter, the former American president, in Atlanta.

Latin American leaders stated publicly what international bankers have muttered in private. The debt accumulated by nations during the re-



James Baker prepared a \$29 billion debt initiative which he added to their foreign debts, more than \$103.1 billion flowed back out in capital flight.

In February alone, more than \$3 billion in capital was sent out of Mexico by nervous investors concerned about the health of their nation's economy.

Mr Walter Wriston, former chairman of Citicorp, startled a luncheon audience at the Manhattan Institute when he said: "Most people believe the flight of capital from Latin America on deposit in New York and Miami exceeds the total capital remaining in those countries."

This continuing haemor-



David Mulford: reforms for debtor nations

rhage of resources prompted Mr Wriston to say what government finance ministers have also stated. "There is no point in lending money to Mexico until it lets its currency float, brings inflation down and reduces its deficit. Until this occurs, there is nothing a lender can do to help."

This "domestic side" of the debt crisis is now dominating negotiations. But developing nations are highly critical of the notion of even tougher, more specific conditions attached to loans from banks and the IMF.

Mr David Mulford, assistant US Treasury Secretary, alluded to the new emphasis

when he said in Atlanta this week that "there are many non-painful reforms debtor nations can take".

The sources of capital flight are numerous but the dominant cause is fearful investors who have little faith in the management of their own economies.

Corruption is another cause as shown by recent events in Africa and the Philippines. From 1978 to 1983, when the Philippines borrowed an estimated \$19.1 billion, more than \$8.9 billion left the country.

Mr George Ayittey, of Ghana, who is an assistant professor of economics at Bloomsburg University in Pennsylvania, estimates that during the height of the oil boom in 1978, corrupt Nigerian officials were transferring \$25 million a day out of the country.

The study also estimates that President Sese Seka of Zaire amassed \$5 billion in Swiss bank accounts.

The excesses are countered by a few solid success stories, such as that of Brazil. Ever since reforms launched by the new democratic government have brought big gains.

Making seawater do the work

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Shell and Esso have awarded a contract to the National Engineering Laboratory to develop a hydraulic system which uses sea water instead of expensive hydraulic fluids, and which will allow British companies to mount an export offensive.

The NEL, based in East Kilbride, Strathclyde, will develop tools and power packs capable of being used by divers more than 1,300 feet underwater. It will also develop the potential of water as a hydraulic medium for use both on and offshore.

The contract is in two stages. The first, worth £285,000, is for development of a tested prototype tool and subsea power pack. The second, worth £500,000, will develop a range of power tools and take the project to the point of commercial development.

Mr John Currie, divisional manager of the NEL, Great Britain of the validity of overseas divorces... that is to say, divorces... which are obtained by means of judicial or other proceedings in any country outside the British Isles; and (b) are effective under the law of that country."

Section 3(1) provides: "The validity of the proceedings in the country in which it was obtained... (a) either spouse was habitually resident in that country; or (b) either spouse was a national of that country."

Mr Sibghatullah Kadri and Miss Harjit Grewal for Ghulam Fatima; Mr John Laws and Mr Robert Jay for the secretary of state.

Law Report April 11 1986

Talaq in UK not a valid divorce

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Ghulam Fatima

Before Lord Keith of Kinkor, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Templeman, Lord Mackay of Clashfern and Lord Ackner [Speeches sold April 10]

The pronouncement of the talaq formed part of a talaq divorce under Pakistani law; accordingly, where a talaq was pronounced in England and the remainder of the proceedings took place in Pakistan the validity of the divorce was not recognized under the provisions of the Divorce and Legal Separations Act 1971.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by Ghulam Fatima from the Court of Appeal (Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Slade and Lord Justice Parker) [The Times, June 7, 1984; [1985] QB 190]. The Court of Appeal had affirmed a decision of Mr Justice Taylor who had refused Ghulam Fatima's application for judicial review of a decision of an immigration officer.

Section 2 of the 1971 Act provides: "Sections 3 to 5 of this Act shall have effect... as respects the recognition in Great Britain of the validity of overseas divorces... that is to say, divorces... which are obtained by means of judicial or other proceedings in any country outside the British Isles; and (b) are effective under the law of that country."

Section 3(1) provides: "The validity of the proceedings in the country in which it was obtained... (a) either spouse was habitually resident in that country; or (b) either spouse was a national of that country."

Mr Sibghatullah Kadri and Miss Harjit Grewal for Ghulam Fatima; Mr John Laws and Mr Robert Jay for the secretary of state.

LORD ACKNER said that Ghulam Fatima was a Pakistani national. Her parents had arranged for her to marry Mohammed Afzal, who had lived in the United Kingdom since 1968. He was also a Pakistani national and had been married in 1968 in Pakistan.

In 1982, Ghulam Fatima had arrived at Heathrow Airport as his fiancée. He claimed that his previous marriage had been effectively dissolved, but the immigration officer had not been persuaded that the divorce was recognized in the United Kingdom.

Ghulam Fatima had accordingly been refused leave to enter the United Kingdom on the ground that the immigration officer was not satisfied that her intended marriage to Mohammed Afzal could take place within a reasonable time.

In Pakistan the law relating to divorce was the Islamic law as modified by the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance 1961. In traditional Islamic law the husband had the right unilaterally to repudiate his wife, without showing cause and without recourse to a court of law.

Such divorce was effected by the pronouncement of the formula of repudiation, a talaq, and in traditional law a divorce by talaq would take the simple form of the husband announcing talaq three times. The divorce then became immediately effective and irrevocable.

Section 7 of the Ordinance provided that a man wishing to divorce his wife should, as soon as might be after the pronouncement of talaq, give the chairman of the local union council notice in writing of his having done so.

The chairman was required to convene an arbitration council to attempt the reconciliation of the parties, but their attendance was not obligatory and the divorce would become effective.

steps to implement the said resolution and from removing him from the committee.

Mr David Pannick for the applicant; Mr Eldred Tabernick, QC and Mr Adrian Lynch for the council.

MR JUSTICE MANN said that looking at the sections of the Act dealing with the appointment to committees, it was properly said that the local authority was entitled to formulate criteria subject to rationality.

That embraced the question as to the significance of section 94 and its companions and whether they had the effect of limiting the criteria which the authority could formulate.

There appeared to be two quite distinct questions: the question of criteria and the question of personal details.

It did not appear to his Lordship that section 94 dealt in any way with criteria. It dealt with members of a council or as in section 105, members of a committee.

The question of membership was anterior to that arising under section 94 and his Lordship could not derive any assistance from that section as to the type of criteria which the authority was entitled to impose on members elected to a committee.

Solicitors: Sebastian Coleman & Co; Mr R. G. Grant, East Ham.

unless the wife was pregnant once 90 days had elapsed from the receipt by the chairman of the notice of the talaq.

In 1978 Mohammed Afzal had pronounced talaq against his wife and made a statutory declaration that he had done so before a solicitor in Bolton.

Copies of that document had been sent to the wife and to the chairman of the relevant union council. No record of the talaq had been effected and the marriage had been dissolved 90 days after the receipt by the chairman of the notice of the talaq.

The essential questions were: 1. Whether the talaq divorce had been obtained by Mohammed Afzal by proceedings wholly in Pakistan (in which case the applicant would succeed; see Quazi v Quazi (1980) AC 741); or by proceedings partly in England and partly in Pakistan; in which case the second question arose.

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COMPANY NEWS

- **SW FARMER GROUP:** No dividend for 1985 (3.1p). Turnover £16.29 million (£19.14 million). Pretax loss £1.25 million (loss £1.52 million).
- **METANA MINERALS:** Results for half year in December 31. Consolidated operating profit \$Aus1.3 million (\$Aus878,000 loss). Earnings per share 5.7c. Turnover rose by 69 per cent to \$Aus6.5 million. Investment and other income \$Aus434,000 (\$Aus108,000).
- **INDUSTRIAL EQUITY:** The chairman, Mr Ron Brierley, said company was withdrawing its partial bid for North British Holdings because of the difficulties and delays caused by legal proceedings over shares purchased earlier.
- **NORTHGATE EXPLORATION:** The company is in better shape this year than in any of the last four years, the chairman says in the annual report.
- **HANKO INDUSTRIES:** Accounts show compensation of £25,000 paid to Mr D R Greenhough, who relinquished executive duties on December 31. The compensation was paid as he had waived rights to 12 months' notice under his service agreement. He remains a director.
- **MONUMENT OIL AND GAS:** The chairman, Mr A R G McGibbon, said in his annual statement that the company expected to concentrate its efforts this year on further appraisal of structure on blocks 29/4a and 29/5a in the North Sea.
- **BOOSEY & HAWKES:** The board said that a tentative bid approach had been made. However, it seemed unlikely at this stage that any offer would be made.
- **SHARE DRUG STORES:** Results for 26 weeks to March 1. Interim dividend 0.9p (0.7). Figures in £000. Pretax profit 851 (600). Earnings per share 5.9p (3.9). Trading since March has been encouraging. The company is in raise about £3.8 million by the issue of 1,499,755 ordinary shares by way of an underwritten rights issue on the basis of one new share for every six existing shares at 25p a share.
- **FOTHERGILL & HARVEY:** Results for year in December 28. Final dividend 6p (5.5), making 8.75p (8.25). Figures in £000. Pretax profit 2,737 (2,574), including associated company's profit 187 (loss 168) but after interest 267 (17). Earnings per share 14.25p (11.82). The board said that the fall in interest rates coupled with low oil prices led to expectation that the improved business in the first three months of 1986 would continue.
- **SIMON ENGINEERING:** Final dividend 6p, making 8.5p (8) for 1985. Figures in £000. Pretax profit 26,126 (24,223). Earnings per share before extraordinary items 29.2p (23.8), after 15.2p (23.6).
- **TIONIX GROUP:** Results for 1985. Figures in £ millions. Dividend 83p, making 118p (74). Turnover 426.39 (322.51). Profit before tax 78.23 (41.95). Earnings per ordinary share 157.5p (95.2).
- **BEMROSE CORPORATION:** Dividend 6p (1) making 5p (5.4) for 1985. Figures in £000. Profit before tax 1,616 (152), tax 1,008 (738). Earnings per ordinary share 5.19p (1.9p loss). Company said it had achieved all its principal objectives in 1985. Group was in a position to build strongly and positively for the future. All operations had made a good start to 1986. Pretax profit for the year was after charges exceptional costs of £538,000 relating to the re-organization of the security printing division and £112,000 in packaging.

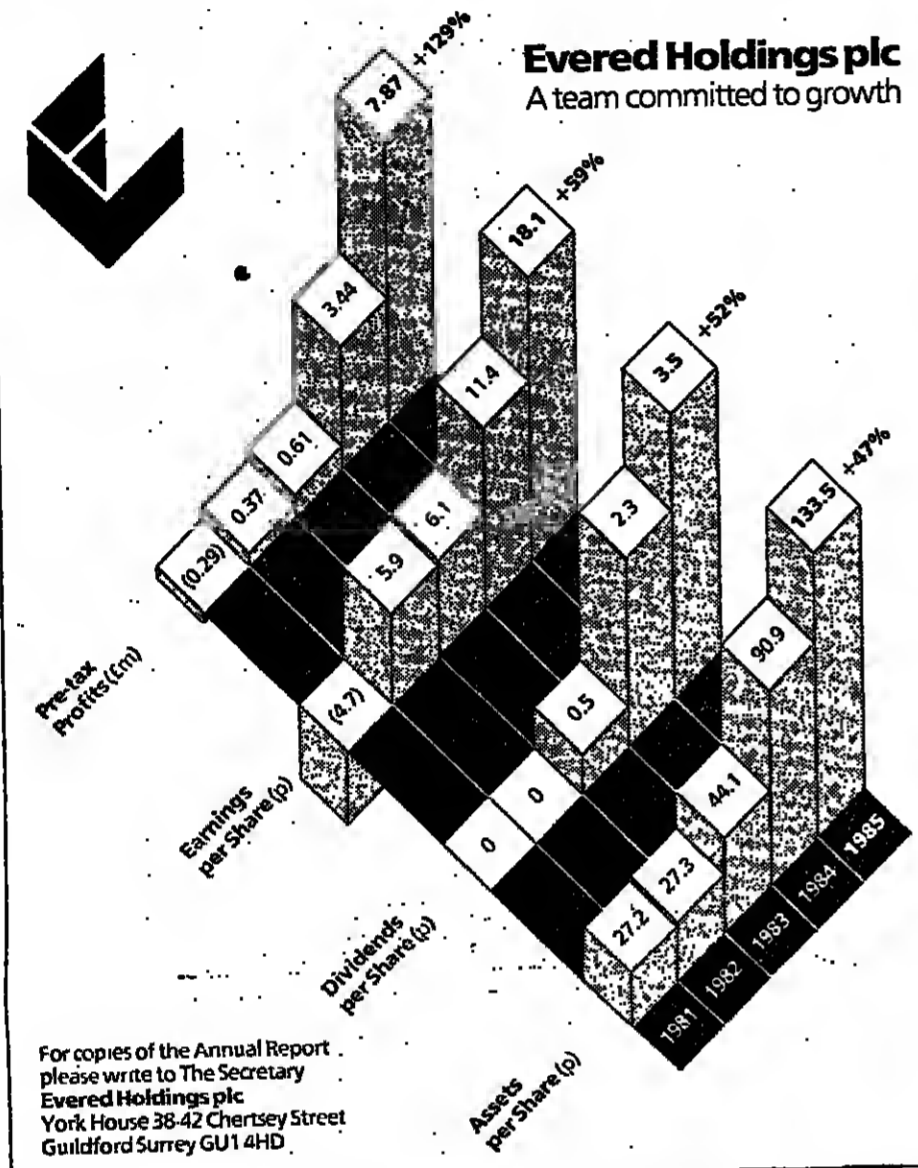
Rescue plan for Ekofisk oilfield

Oslo (Reuter) - A rescue plan has been proposed to save Norway's slowly sinking Ekofisk oilfield operations from North Sea storm waves by raising six steel oil platforms, the field's operator, Phillips Petroleum, said yesterday.

It is proposed to cut the legs on the platforms, piled into the seabed in 237 feet of water on Norway's southern continental shelf, and weld in 20-foot steel lengths to regain clearance.

The operation, to be carried out this summer pending approval by the Norwegian authorities, is expected to cost \$205 million (£140 million).

Ekofisk produces about 225,000 barrels of oil a day



Bank of Ireland

announces that with effect from close of business on 11th April 1986 its Base Rate for lending is reduced from 11½% to 11% per annum

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Citibank, N.A., 336 Strand, London WC2R 1HB, telephone 438 0155 between the hours of 11.30am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

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Figures based on the market prices at 5.30pm on Thursday.

HANSON TRUST

The values of Hanson Trust's offers depend on its share price. The above offer value is for Hanson Trust's Share and Convertible Stock Election and takes account of an estimate by Hanson Trust Ltd. of the value of the 10% convertible loan stock of Hanson Trust. The value of the Convertible Stock is estimated because it will only be issued in the event of the offer becoming unconditional.

Council can establish committee criteria

Regina v Newham London Borough Council, Ex parte Haggertry

Before Mr Justice Mann [Judgment given April 9]

A local authority had the right to establish its own criteria for appointing members to its committee in their standing orders, and by parity of reasoning, it had the power to remove those persons failing to satisfy those criteria.

Mr Justice Mann so held in the Queen's Bench Division, refusing an application for judicial review by way of declaration and injunction.

The applicant, John James Haggertry, a member of the council, its education committee and its leisure services committee, declined to provide the range of personal details which the council required to be disclosed in a declaration, a procedure which had been introduced by a standing order.

The applicant claimed that the declaration was a gross invasion of privacy because it covered matters which went far beyond the statutory requirements regarding the disclosure of pecuniary interests as laid down in section 94 of the Local Government Act 1972.

He thus sought a declaration that the resolution adopting the standing orders was null and void, and an injunction restraining the defendants from taking

steps to implement the said resolution and from removing him from the committee.

Mr David Pannick for the applicant; Mr Eldred Tabernick, QC and Mr Adrian Lynch for the council.

MR JUSTICE MANN said that looking at the sections of the Act dealing with the appointment to committees, it was properly said that the local authority was entitled to formulate criteria subject to rationality.

That embraced the question as to the significance of section 94 and its companions and whether they had the effect of limiting the criteria which the authority could formulate.

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The question of membership was anterior to that arising under section 94 and his Lordship could not derive any assistance from that section as to the type of criteria which the authority was entitled to impose on members elected to a committee.

Solicitors: Sebastian Coleman & Co; Mr R. G. Grant, East Ham.

Charge under old Act

Taylor v McGirr

An offence alleged to have been committed before July 1, 1985 being the date of the coming into force of the Companies Act 1985, was after that date correctly charged against the defendant under section 12 of the Companies Act 1976.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Glidewell and Mr Justice McNeill) so held on April 8 allowing the prosecutor's appeal against the decision of the Chesham Justices on November 27, 1985 to uphold a defence submission of no case to answer on a charge of failing to keep proper accounts and remitting the case to the justices to continue the hearing.

LORD JUSTICE GLIDEWELL said that such an offence should be charged under section 12 of the 1976 Act and not under the corresponding provisions of the 1985 Act.

1986

A welcome spotlight

The focus of controversy over the leading presidential candidate has been the kind of attention it has seldom had since the last war

The history of Austria's Second Republic is a story of a nation that has been reborn. The country's image has been transformed in a matter of years. In 1945, Austria was a country of ruins, a country that had been occupied by the Nazis. But by 1955, it had become a neutral state, a country that was respected and admired by the world.

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about Austrian attitudes to history. As one Austrian banker recently returned from America observed, "to be an Austrian in America during the Waldheim affair was not an easy matter".

The problem of Austria's attitudes to its past seems largely from a widespread refusal to research or examine in any critical light the country's brief but unhappy association with Nazi Germany between 1938 and 1945.

Austrians grow up increasingly ignorant of the events of their country's history. One Austrian historian recently wrote that basic school history texts used throughout the country contained dozens of omissions and errors concerning the inter-war period. One of the most ominous of these was the lack of any reference to the fact that Austria's right-wing chancellor, Engelbert Dollfuss, was assassinated by the Nazis in 1934.

The last year, though, a rude awakening for many Austrians, has made some realize that this ambivalent relationship with their Nazi past will continue to place a strain on relations with those who would like to be their friends.

These widely publicized matters aside, Dr Sinowatz has managed to continue, like the Habsburgs, to "muddle along". The Chancellor, assailed from all sides by these and other crises, has remained a solid rock of respectability, surviving one storm after another.

As more and more corruption is revealed in industries and insurance concerns, the Chancellor's simple lifestyle and reputation for honesty become rarer commodities on the Austrian political scene and his stock rises accordingly. He has held his party together through a difficult period.

Indicative of the crisis within the Austrian Socialist Party, which

has lost much of its coherence as Austria's problems become less and less concerned with social issues, was the fate of the *Arbeiter Zeitung*.

This once-celebrated paper went tabloid after being threatened by the Socialist Party with closure. Its editorials had frequently questioned the government's policies.

Its letters had been one of the few sensible forums for debate in the country's lamentable press. Many of the party's managers found it uncomfortable reading. Its unhappy transformation into a tabloid has undermined the nervousness of Socialists eager to nip any criticism of the party in the bud.

Despite these difficulties, the conservative opposition party has for the third year running failed to show itself politically skilful enough to exploit the situation.

The lack of charisma which besets the opposition Peoples' Party, combined with a sense of political tactics which would be considered juvenile by a sixth-form debating society, has left them even more unpopular in the opinion polls now than they were when they fought the 1983 election.

The success of the Green movement, which in 1984 made considerable gains at local elections, continues to reflect the growing disillusionment of many younger Austrians with the rigid mould of the two main parties and the smaller right-wing Freedom Party.

Austria, so long the country of pensioners, is slowly coming to terms with its younger generation. After the inertia of the 1970s, their country's political crises of the 1980s cannot fail to be instructive.

Richard Bassett



'A man of experience, a man for Austria — his time has come!' Posters sing the praise of Dr Kurt Waldheim



Trying to pilot a coalition government through troubled waters: Dr Fred Sinowatz, the Chancellor

A BRITISH FEST IN VIENNA
On Monday the Prince and Princess of Wales begin an official visit to Austria, which coincides with the festival, Britain in Vienna 1986. During the coming weeks the capital will be the venue for a concert by the Philharmonia Orchestra, productions by the National Theatre and exhibitions of British design and fashion. See Page 25.

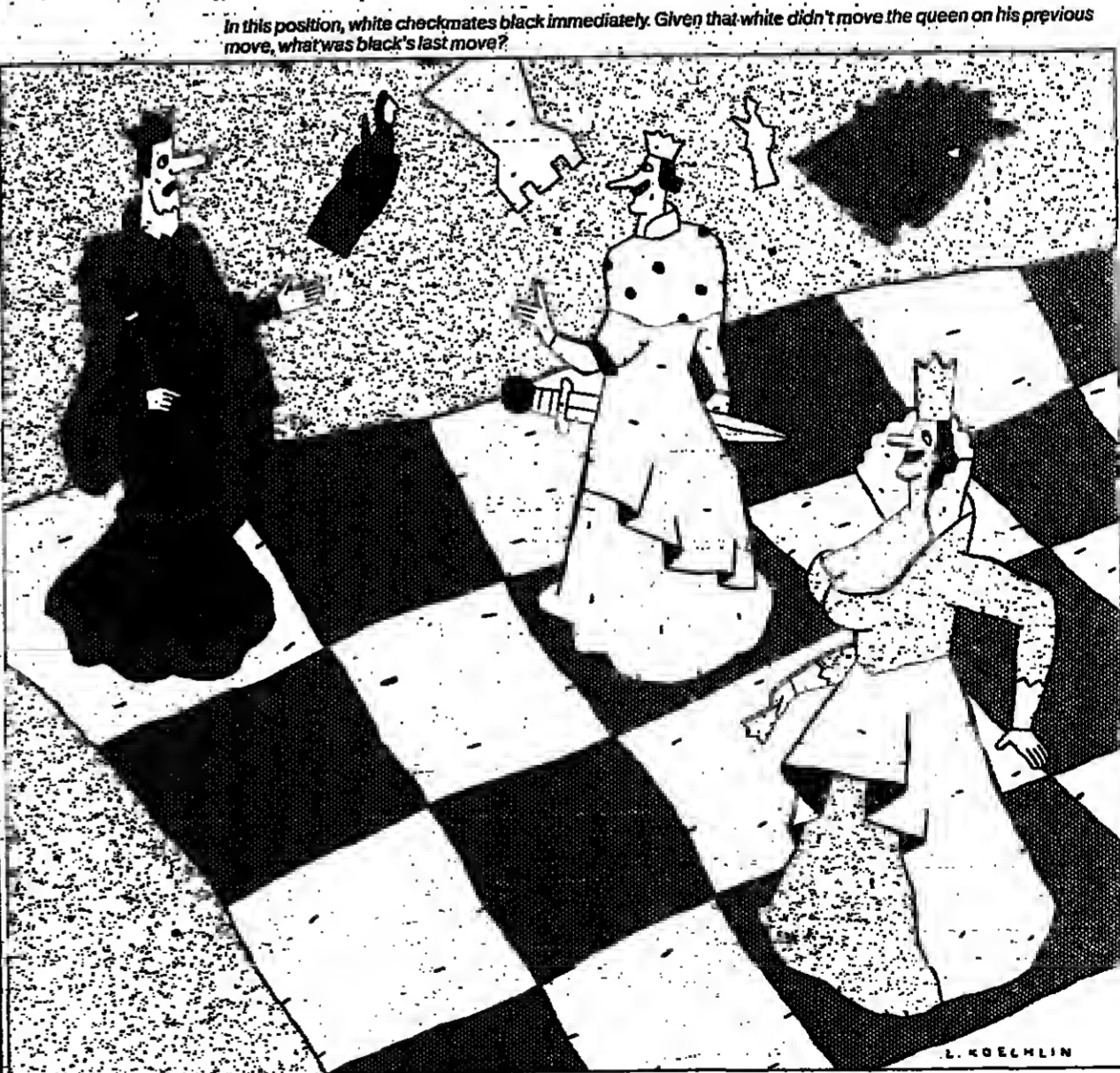
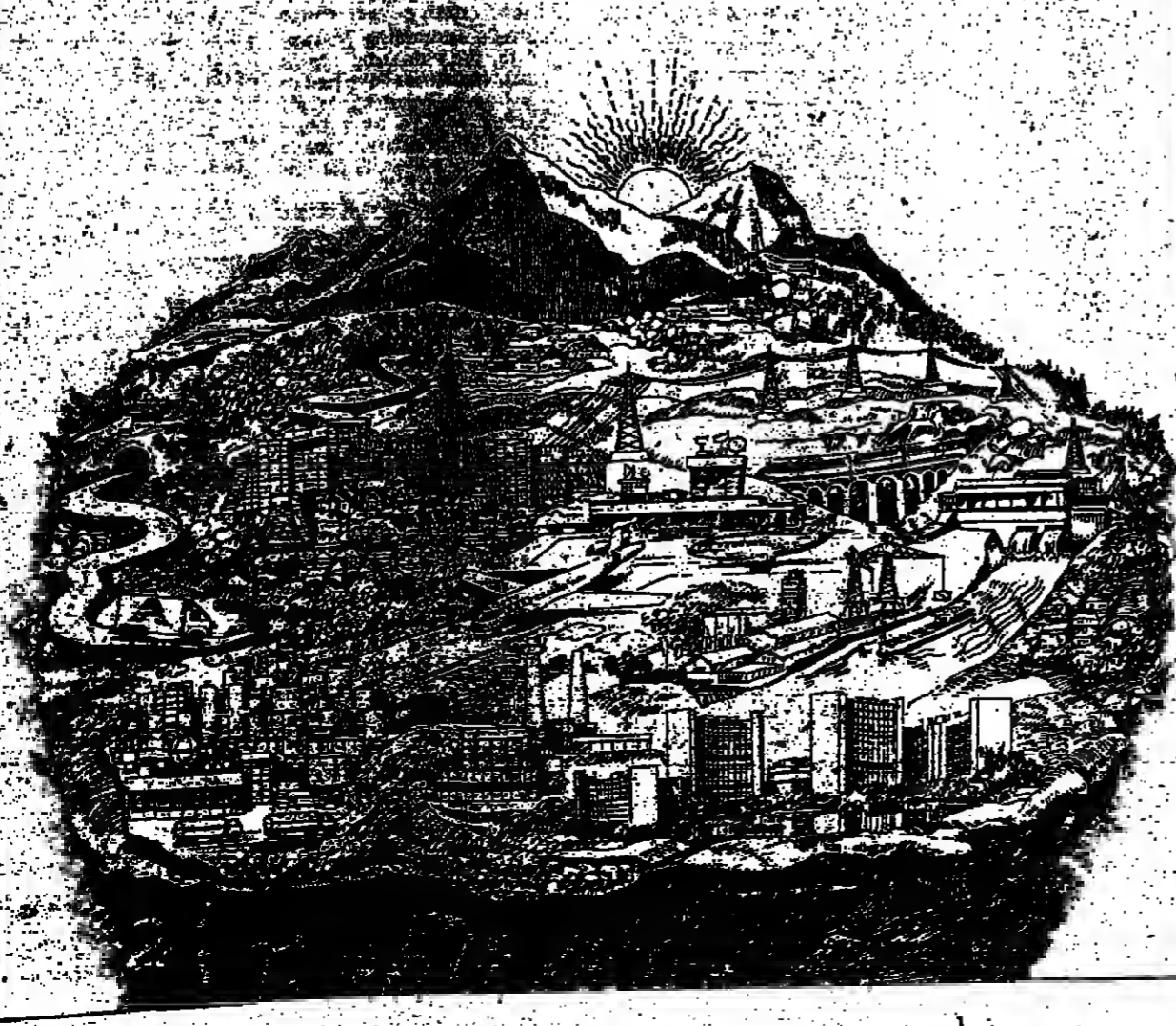
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Skills for export to the East

An Austrian-financed spa-town in Bulgaria; an hydro-electric power station on the Danube; an hotel in Prague and ski complex in Soviet Georgia. The polyglot Austrian empire may have vanished in 1918 but Vienna's commercial *Drang nach Osten* is gathering momentum.

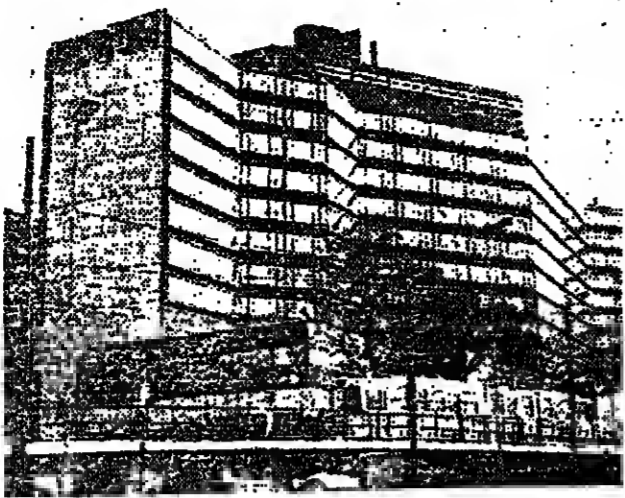
In Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and even parts of Soviet Russia, Austrian capital and know-how are constructing hotels, refurbishing jaded tourist industries and financing projects involving large-scale building.

Nor is the Austrian advance confined to construction. Bulgaria seems set to sign later this year a contract to modernize its telephone system with Austrian technology and a score of other business agreements will emphasize further the country's special relationship with the East.

Mirroring this success is the continued growth of Austria's broad range of exports to the East. In 1985, 11 per cent of its overseas sales, worth 45.77 billion schillings (£2.08 billion) were to Eastern Europe, barely one per cent less than its exports to the EEC.

Dr Alfred Mayer of the Austrian Chamber of Commerce is quick to deny that Austria has any special advantage when dealing with the East. "It is all a question of commercial conditions," he says. "We are on the edge of the Western world, and therefore our relations are good and intense but we do not get any presents from the East."

Herr Franz Nauschnigg, a senior official in the Austrian trade ministry, believes Austrian trading links with the East have grown with the increased competitiveness of Austrian firms. "We are competing with the Germans,



Forum Hotel Budapest: Internationally acclaimed

Swiss and now even the Japanese. We can only survive if we tighten up and keep a competitive edge."

However, most businessmen who deal regularly with Eastern Europe insist that Austria has in many ways a slight advantage over other countries, especially from the West or the Orient. "The mentality is the same in Vienna as it is in Budapest; the contacts are traditionally close and

'The advantage of geography'

they share the same history. Above all, they have the great advantage of geography," observed one Western businessman with contacts in the East.

Those Austrians who travel frequently to Eastern Europe would agree. Ironically, only one country, Romania, seems to present more than its fair share of problems to those in Vienna who are keen to sell or invest in the East.

between Austrian and Hungarian firms, enshrining a mutual desire for regular consultation and co-operation. In addition to these there are eight joint ventures covering construction, chemicals, electricity and agriculture.

However great the similarity in temperament between the businessman of Vienna and Budapest, Austria's trade links with the East have been immeasurably helped by Hungary's economic reforms and, of late, more relaxed political atmosphere. Budapest's decision to develop a "Western-orientated" tourist industry made Vienna a natural city to cast around in for capital and advice. The Austrians, keen to cement links with their neighbour, were no less enthusiastic.

Thus it was that on July 12, 1978, both countries made a leap in the dark by signing a five billion schilling credit agreement. This opened the way for Austria to become involved with projects between 1979 and 1983.

These included the establishment of 14 hotels in Budapest, Sopron and other Hungarian resorts. It also helped the construction of the,

ed in without the risks associated with Poland.

Their success has impressed Western visitors to Budapest, while those many thousands of Austrians who go to the Hungarian capital for commercial reasons have been overheard demanding why Austrian money cannot be used in Vienna to create a first-class hotel.

More controversial than these projects, however, is the plan to finance the Hungarian power station at Nagymaros near the Slovak-Hungarian frontier along a most picturesque part of the Danube. The station would drastically alter the appearance of the river beneath the famous ruins of Visegrad, where the great Hungarian King Matthias Corvinus once held court.

The Nagymaros project, linking Austria with Czechoslovakia and Hungary's hydro-electric power, is a scheme worthy of the Habsburgs - Austrian capital building a Hungarian power station with links to Czechoslovakia; not since the Austrian empire has the Danube's traditional role as the link between East and West been so carefully exploited.

However, the scheme seems set to run into environmental protests both in Hungary and Austria. The Austrian government, which will be paid back in power, rather than money, from the station, is in a sensitive position. The popular Green movement has already forced it to drop plans for its own power station along the Danube at Hainburg. The Greens are unlikely to remain silent about a scheme less than 50 miles further downstream. However, trade officials in Budapest and Vienna are ad-

Western visitors are impressed

by Eastern European standards, luxurious second airport of the Hungarian capital, which was opened last autumn by the Austrian Foreign Minister, Dr Leopold Graf.

Both the airport and such modern hotels in Budapest as the internationally acclaimed Forum and Atrium Hyatt were prestige projects designed to convince the West that Hungary could be invest-



Luxury in Hungary: A relaxing atmosphere in the hotel built with Austrian money

ment that it will go ahead as planned.

Other deals which are also hoped to be tied up this year are a 400-million-schilling (£18 million) project for a health centre at the spa town of Sandanski in Bulgaria and an equally expensive scheme to restore one of Moscow's old luxury hotels.

In addition to these, the contract for a Forum hotel in Prague was signed a few months ago. Poland, a traditionally risky market of which the Austrians have fought shy, is discussing a number of

wide-ranging projects, including hotels in Warsaw and Cracow. These are expected to be approved within the next few months.

What, one may ask, do the Austrians get out of all this? "The financial benefits are not so great but they are a sufficient incentive. More important is the reconstruction of confidence between our countries and our eastern neighbours stemming from a belief that small countries with a traditional link have much to gain from co-operating," a trade ministry official said.

At trade fairs throughout Eastern Europe the remarkably high profile of the Austrians has amazed many Germans, traditionally the strongest Western force at these events. The profile is reinforced by the holding of frequent symposiums in Vienna on the problems of East-West trade. As one slightly envious Swiss businessman remarked at the Bulgarian Trade Fair at Plovdiv, "the Austrian flag may still be rejected in eastern Europe but the Austrian businessmen never"

RB

Why the Socialists talk of a turning point

The year 1985 was a good one for the Austrian economy, and lower oil prices should help 1986 to be the same.

However, the economic policies are likely to be very different. Politicians in the ruling Socialist-led coalition speak of a great turning point. In the wake of huge losses by the state-owned engineering group Voest-Alpine, Austria's largest industrial group, Franz Vranitzky, the finance minister, said baldly this year: "The time has gone when we could decide to spend a couple of billion to create some jobs."

Until now, jobs have had a higher priority than profitability. The government featherbedded the state sector as a means of soaking up excess labour.

Bruno Kreisky, Chancellor from 1970 to 1983, preferred higher government debts to higher unemployment, which touched a record of more than 200,000 (7 per cent of the workforce) in January. Herr Vranitzky does not. He denies he is a Thatcherite - he told foreign reporters recently he dislikes Mrs Thatcher's way of conducting "economic warfare" - but some tinges of Thatcherism are recognizable. Although he himself has not said so, leading bankers have dropped hints that some degree of privatization may not be far down the road.

Austria's gross domestic product, boosted by exports which were up by 12.5 per cent, grew by 2.9 per cent last year two per cent higher than in 1984 and the country's best figure since the oil shock of 1979. Dr Vranitzky made no bones about his satisfaction that Austria outstripped growth of 2.4 per cent in West Germany, its most important trading partner. The Vienna stock exchange also woke up with a boom. Share prices went up by 130 per cent and share turnover in and outside the exchange rose about six-fold.

Much of Austria's trading success was due to small private companies, and Herr Vranitzky and Ferdinand Lacina, the state industry

minister, are determined to shake up the public sector.

Long called for by the conservative opposition People's Party (ÖVP), the shake-up was precipitated by the resignation of the entire managing board of Voest-Alpine last November, when news emerged that the company's barter trade subsidiary, Intertrading, had lost billions of schillings on oil speculation. The group's losses for last year are expected to reach more than 11 billion schillings (about £447 million).

New management has been bought in and given a mandate to make the group profitable. Herbert Lewinsky, an Austrian poached from Mobil in Hamburg to be Voest's new

SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	1985	1986*
GDP (real growth %)	2.9	3.0
Current account (bn sch)	-2.0	8.6
Exports-goods (nom bn sch)	354.3	377.3
Imports (nom bn sch)	431.1	435.5
Inflation rate (CPI in %)	3.2	2.0
Unemployment rate (in %)	4.8	4.9

Rate of exchange: £1=approx.25 sch
* Forecast
Source: Österreichisches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung

managing director, says he will resign if the politicians will not give him the independence to do just that, regardless of the political consequences for the Socialist Party.

Under the consensus politics of co-operation between unions and employers, to which many attribute Austria's astounding postwar growth, the managing boards of state industries have had to be politically balanced. Major political parties and trade union representatives have been guaranteed seats on important boards.

Herr Vranitzky and Herr Lacina are now stressing qual-

ifications and profit orientation rather than "political proportionalism". The state sector's industrial holding company, OIAG, is being reorganized on these lines and a new OIAG law has gone before parliament.

For the economy as a whole, prospects for 1986 seem fairly rosy. Since the dramatic fall in the price of oil, the semi-official economic forecasting institute WIFO has raised its growth forecast to 3 per cent from 2.5 per cent and improved its prediction for the current account, which showed a four billion schilling deficit in 1984.

More problematic than the current account will be adherence to the country's hard currency policy. Although the National Bank persists in saying the schilling will continue to keep pace with the Deutschmark, officials admit privately that it cannot do so indefinitely unless Austria manages to bring other economic fundamentals into line. That the Austria's economy grew faster than West Germany's last year was exceptional, they say, and they point to their neighbour's huge current account surplus and almost non-existent inflation rate.

Austria's interest rate differential over West Germany was increased last month when the National Bank in Vienna did not follow the Bundesbank in Frankfurt in cutting leading rates. The bank said this was necessary because of the better performance of the German economy.

The revaluation this week of the schilling, which followed revaluation of the mark in the realignment of the European Monetary System, will hit Austrian exporters and the country's important tourist trade, already worried that the decline of the dollar will cause a dramatic drop in the number of high-spending American visitors.

A Special Correspondent



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VIENNA



Franz Vranitzky, left, and Ferdinand Lacina, both stressing profit orientation

لبنان في الشرق

Why it drink

Nature & Culture

Why it is good taste to drink the wine again

Rust, a Burgenland village, in March. During a busy two-day state visit to Austria, the West German president, Richard von Weizsäcker, squeezes in an opportunity to taste some Austrian wine.

The villagers smile and the cameras of the Austrian press record what is widely seen as an historic occasion, for no other West German can better reassure the Austrians that their wine will still be drunk abroad after the catastrophe of last summer than Herr von Weizsäcker.

Such reassurance is still necessary less than a year after the anti-freeze agent diethylene glycol was discovered by West German inspectors and Austrian bottles rapidly disappeared from the wine shops of Europe, the United States and Japan. A small but prestigious export was dealt a devastating blow and more than 23 million bottles of Austrian wine had to be destroyed.

As wine growers went bankrupt - even the world-famous flagship of Austrian wine, the House of Lenz-Moser, virtually collapsed - those who had doctored the wines disappeared behind bars. The industry, already reeling from these events, then faced the appalling discovery that a horde of other abuses had been unearthed in the country's wine trade: red wines made only of water and grape refuse or chemicals and grape juice; white wines which had been watered down by as much as a third or which contained TNT. Not surprisingly, beer consumption doubled last summer.

The agriculture ministry, therefore, worked out details of a proposed new law which it insisted would be the strictest in Europe. This included a 25-point code considered unworkable by most wine growers but enshrining several basic safeguards. Since last autumn all additives to any bottle of wine must be publicly registered. A similar requirement covers wine sold in bottles or even stored in a tank.

Stricter labels have also been introduced. They list any preservatives and reveal precisely where the wine hails

from. The code also contains provision for the immediate access to wine cellars by inspectors and police.

Although these measures may allay fears abroad, they have faced strict opposition from growers, who have consistently campaigned for tax reductions to help them cope with the added expense of all this bureaucracy. The additives were mainly the work of dealers, not growers. Why, ask many wine dealers, should the growers be penalized?

Many of the Burgenland growers to whom Herr von Weizsäcker spoke said their lives had been made a misery as a result of last summer. Wine growing was an integral part of their existence and had been part of their families' lives for generations.

Consumer still has a wide choice of the best wines

Eight out of ten people in Burgenland, Austria's easternmost and poorest province, are engaged in some way in cultivating grapes. Since the law was passed last autumn, they have regularly protested at the regulations, riding tractors through Vienna and submitting evidence to an all-party monitoring committee which will report this spring on the state of the country's wine industry.

However, the consumer of Austrian wines is unlikely to find his choice narrowed by the new law once he crosses the country's borders. On the whole, most Austrian wines are drunk rather young. The financial dependence of the growers on quick sales and a high turnover has prevented many growers from taking Austrian wine seriously when it is more than two or three years old. In addition, Austria's harsh climate does not encourage vintage wines.

Nonetheless, there are several respectable red wines which can be laid down for a few years. The Blaufränkisch, a grape originally from Charlemagne's Franconia, is the source of Burgenland's par excellence red wines and is an agreeable dry accompaniment

to rich Austrian game dishes. The Zweigelt crossbreed found in the picturesque Wachau region of Austria along the Danube also produces some surprisingly smooth wines.

Among the whites, the Gruner Veltliner, which accounts for 30 per cent of all wines sold in the country, is pleasant, if a little thin at times, and is unique to Austria. It has a slightly peppery aftertaste which makes it a good companion to dumplings and schnitzels.

Also to be found along the banks of the Danube west of Vienna is the most impressive of the Austrian whites, the aristocratic Rhine Riesling grape. These vines grow around the ruins of the great fortress at Dürnstein, which commands the dramatic valley of the Danube between Krems and Melk, and are admirable with that river's celebrated pike.

South of Graz, the capital of Styria, Austria's southernmost province, only a few miles from the Yugoslav frontier, the foothills of the Julian Alps are endowed with a grape which can be found in no other part of the world. The Schilcher Rose which is made from them has been a Styrian delicacy since medieval times and, though something of an acquired taste, is in summer one of the most refreshing drinks to be found in Austria.

In the famous Heurigen taverns above the Austrian capital, there is in the autumn another refreshing drink made partly from grape juice and partly from wine, called, aptly in view of its strength, "Sturm". Its heady, yeasty flavour has a pleasant, if disarming, fizz to it.

All these drinks are still to be enjoyed in Austria without any ill effects beyond those normally associated with alcohol. Despite last summer's traumas, wine-lovers can rest assured that it will not be necessary, as happened in the 14th century, for Austrian wine to be poured into the foundations of a cathedral tower on account of its astringency. Now, as then, it has shown a remarkable capacity to survive.

RB

The house that Friedensreich built...

"We live in concrete concentration camps...we need colour, not anonymity, irregularity not symmetry," explained a bearded man, dressed in what seemed to be his pyjamas. The journalists looked at one another in bewilderment; for two hours Friedensreich Hundertwasser had berated reporters in a high-pitched whine about the shortcomings of Austrian architecture in the 1980s.

Herr Hundertwasser, a well-known and internationally celebrated Austrian painter, was opening what has become the most remarkable block of flats to have been built in Austria since the 1930s. Designed and supervised by him, it was his first essay in brick and mortar.

Sandwiched between tall, grey classical buildings the Hundertwasser house strikes a note of irrepressible Mediterranean exuberance. There are no straight lines, and more than 20 colours and 15 different materials adorn the facade. Gold onion-shaped domes echo the Baroque churches of southern Austria; trees lean out of windows in the facades' balconies; towers are set at rakish angles. The serious art historian regarding the building with a professional eye would be forced to conclude that, in style, the building was somewhere between Fischer von Erlach and Gaudi.

The flats themselves are the culmination of a tradition of socialist housing which began in the years immediately after the First World War. On July 20, 1923, the town council of Vienna passed a law voting sums for the construction of some 23,000 flats. Between then and 1934, about 263,000 flats were built, often by the most innovative architects of the period. They became the pride of socialist Vienna and were considered so luxurious by the Russian troops which invaded Austria at the end of the Second World War that they could not believe that they were simply "workers' tenements".

Earlier, during the 1930s, they had witnessed some of the most bloody fighting of the civil war. The strong walls of such buildings as the Karl Marx Hof had proved excellent arsenals, though the savagery with which bowitzers



...and made the whole of Vienna look twice

were employed by the Austrian army to demolish them, provoked universal condemnation from liberal opinion abroad.

Herr Hundertwasser's debt to these earlier buildings is acknowledged in his writings but, though his irregular pile might seem tailor-made for guerrilla warfare, the social stability of present-day Austria demands something altogether less monumental. "I have only one desire," he

admits, "and that is to build, without resorting to cliché, a truly unusual house."

Born in Vienna in 1926, Herr Hundertwasser was deeply impressed by the greyness of the city recovering from one catastrophe and about to enter a second. It left him with a passion for colour and an undying contempt for architects. "Of course, they can build churches and museums but they cannot build houses because they have

forgotten something, namely people," he says.

For Herr Hundertwasser, architecture is still suffering the baneful influence of the Bauhaus - too many straight lines, when what humanity craves is variety. Quality of life can only come from beauty.

These are remarks and ideas which will doubtless meet with approval when the Prince of Wales visits Vienna next week as patron of the "Britain



Hundertwasser and the unconventional creation (left) that caused the gasps

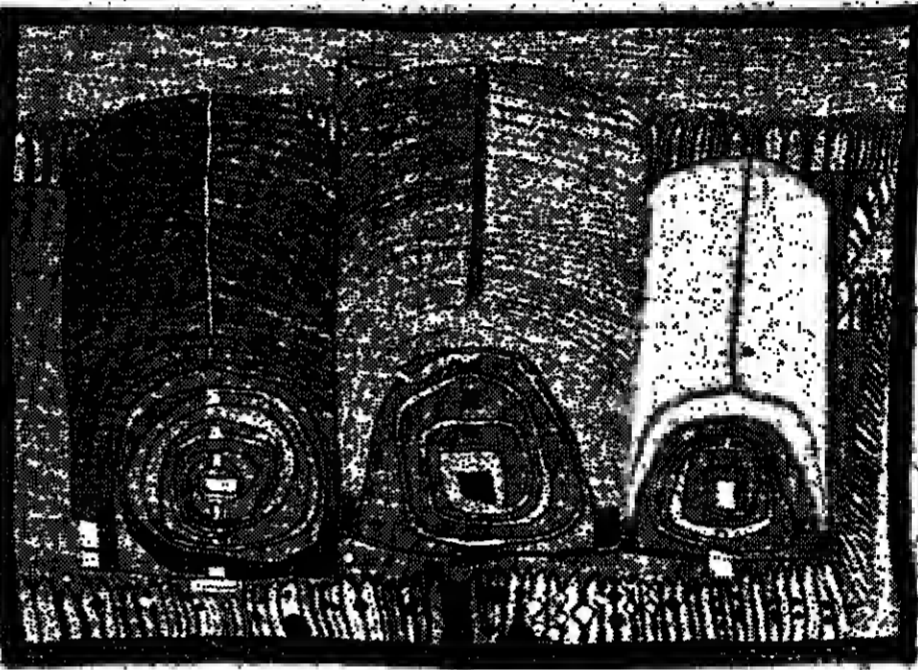
in Vienna" festival. Both Herr Hundertwasser and Prince Charles believe passionately in improving the urban environment and it will be interesting to see whether, like the last Prince of Wales to visit Vienna, the future Duke of Windsor, who insisted on seeing the Karl Marx Hof, Prince Charles finds time to experience what is a unique experiment in European housing.

Herr Hundertwasser's remarks, like those of the Prince of Wales, have angered many architects. Accusations abound in Vienna that Herr Hundertwasser was able to build his house and break so many of the usual Vienna planning regulations only on account of his close relations with the government. They are also sceptical of the ability of the trees in the facade to grow without endangering the structure.

"It looks pretty now but in 10 years it will be a ruin," an architectural student of the distinguished Austrian architect, Hans Hollein, predicted confidently.

Herr Hundertwasser dismissed such criticism as "typical of the dictatorship of architectural dogma". The value of a tree, he says, is inestimable in a city such as Vienna, the presence of colour equally invaluable. As the Vienna council has agreed to sanction a second project from the artist, Herr Hundertwasser's views would seem set to become even more widely appreciated.

RB



Another colourful work: the tapestry, "Three Houses of Atlantis"

FESTIVAL EVENTS

"Britain in Vienna 1986", the festival of British art which runs from April to June, aims to present the achievements of young, creative people in the fields of fashion, the arts, design, theatre and music.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are the festival patrons and during their visit, from April 14 to 16, they will open various events and visit the British Council. The council, which with the British embassy in Vienna, is organizing the festival, is celebrating its 40th anniversary in the Austrian capital this year.

Among the festival events are:

MUSIC

- April
 - 12 Elisabeth Söderström, Geoffrey Parsons, recital with works by Britten and others, *Konzerthaus*, 19.30
 - 13 ORF Symphony Orchestra conducted by Harrison Birtwistle and Anthony Pay, works by Birtwistle and DeLius, *Konzerthaus*, 19.30
 - 15 Philharmonia Orchestra, London (Gala Concert), *Konzerthaus*, 19.00
 - 18, 19, 20 Elton John, *Stadthalle*
- May
 - 25 Wiener Symphoniker, conductor, Sir Yehudi Menuhin, *Konzerthaus*, 19.30
 - Ulster Orchestra, *Musikverein*, 19.30
 - Matt Bianco - Jazz Pop Pioneers, *Stadthalle*
 - 27 Scottish National Orchestra, conductor, Neeme Järvi, *Konzerthaus*, 19.30
- June
 - 9, 10, 11 Kent Opera, *Theater an der Wien*

3 Elgar: "The Dream of Gerontius", ORF Symphony Orchestra, conductor, Sir Charles Mackerras, *Konzerthaus*, 19.30

7 Murray Perahia, piano, works by Britten and others, *Konzerthaus*, 19.30

8 Nigel Osborne concert (with the composer), *Konzerthaus*, 19.30

12 Lecture and discussion about and with the composer Sir Michael Tippett, *Konzerthaus*, 18.00

14 Wiener Symphoniker with Sir Michael Tippett conducting his own work, *Konzerthaus*, 19.00

THEATRE

April

14, 15, 16 National Theatre of Great Britain, Congreve's "Love for Love", *Burgtheater*



Tippett: Conducting



Elton John: In concert

19, 20 National Theatre, Sir Peter Hall's adaptation of "Animal Farm", *Akademietheater*

FILM

April

1-30 "The Great British Films" - British cinema retrospective, two screenings every day, 18.00 and 20.00, *Osterreichisches Filmmuseum*

EXHIBITIONS

April

14 (for one month) Contemporary British Ceramics, *Keramikstudio*

16 (until May 6) British Design 1986, *Kunstlerhaus*

16 (until May 6) British Art 1986, *Kunstlerhaus*

16 (until May 6) British Illustrators from Caxton to Chloe, *Kunstlerhaus*

16 (until May 6) British Books on Contemporary Art and Design, *Kunstlerhaus*

16 (until May 10) Contemporary British Jewelry, *Galerie V&V*

MISCELLANEOUS

April

14 British Commercial Week begins in Central Vienna

15-16 Opening of British Car Show, *Pestschule, Graben*

15-16 Austro-British Design Symposium, *Belvedere*

16 Austro-British Art Meeting, *Secession*

16 Gala British Fashion Show, *Hofburg*

Nature & Culture

Salzburger Land

Information from Landesverkehrsamt, A-5010 Salzburg, Mozartplatz 1 Austria

FAREWELL MELODY

You say, I should not cry, and it is true, there is actually no reason for it. And I fly back home. I am looking forward to it. And who knows? The world has become so small! Perhaps we meet again sooner than we both think. I am in love. With this city. And above all with you. And I want to know what kind of life you are leading...

AUSTRIA, VIA, Singapore Airlines, Air Lanka, PANA, ALA, Iran Air, Kuwait Airways, Iraqi Airways. They all fly southwards, towards the morning, the sunset, to the Near and Far East. To India and Sri Lanka and to the Middle East. To Bangkok and Singapore. As far as China and Japan. Directly from Vienna International Airport.

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities forge ahead

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*Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have an outright or a share of the total daily price money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

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Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN, Dividend, % P/E.

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Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists various fund names and their performance.

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Table with columns: No., 1985 High, 1985 Low, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists short positions and their performance.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Table with columns: No., 1985 High, 1985 Low, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists medium-term investments and their performance.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Table with columns: No., 1985 High, 1985 Low, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists long-term investments and their performance.

UNDATED

Table with columns: No., 1985 High, 1985 Low, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists undated investments and their performance.

INDEX-LINKED

Table with columns: No., 1985 High, 1985 Low, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists index-linked investments and their performance.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Table with columns: No., 1985 High, 1985 Low, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists bank discount investments and their performance.

BREWERIES

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists various brewery companies.

BUILDING AND ROADS

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists various building and road construction companies.

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Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists various chemical and plastic companies.

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Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists various drapery and store companies.

ELECTRICALS

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists various electrical companies.

FINANCE AND LAND

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists various finance and land companies.

FOODS

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists various food companies.

HOTELS AND CATERERS

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists various hotel and catering companies.

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists various industrial companies (A-D).

INDUSTRIALS E-H

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists various industrial companies (E-H).

INDUSTRIALS I-L

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists various industrial companies (I-L).

E-K

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists various companies (E-K).

L-R

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists various companies (L-R).

S-Z

Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists various companies (S-Z).

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Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists various insurance companies.

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Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists various leisure companies.

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Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists various paper, printing, and advertising companies.

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Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists various property companies.

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Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists various shipping companies.

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Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists various motor and aircraft companies.

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Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists various shoe and leather companies.

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Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists various textile companies.

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Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists various oil companies.

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Table with columns: 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Chgs, % P/E. Lists various tobacco companies.

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Motoring by Clifford Webb

Learners' route to motorway safety?

Motorway madness leading to horrific multiple pile-ups is invariably the result of stupid driving. But what causes normally sensible motorists to act in this irresponsible way? The answer to that question has troubled car makers, road safety experts, motorway designers and governments ever since the first German autobahn was built nearly 50 years ago.



The new Peugeot 205 Cabriolet and, below, Saab's 9000i



The new Peugeot 205 Cabriolet and, below, Saab's 9000i

Now a Times reader has come up with two possible causes and some interesting if controversial solutions. My Traxton Child, a retired account living alongside the M3 at Windlesham, Surrey, bases his thesis on many hours of motorway observation and 60 years' driving experience dating back to ownership of such classics as early Bentleys, Lagondas and Sunbeams.

Put quite simply he is convinced that multiple accidents result from (1) lack of motorway driving experience and (2) the inability of most drivers to realise how fast they are travelling. Looking at the speedometer is not enough.

The first and most controversial solution he suggests is to let learner drivers on to motorways. As present, he points out, all their instruction is confined to urban streets. As a result, as soon as they pass their test they can lurch themselves on to motorways without any experience of the much higher speeds.

The thought of raw beginners venturing on to motorways appeals me but I believe there is some logic in introducing it into a two-part driving test. The first part - on the mechanics of driving and a sound knowledge of the Highway Code - would qualify the would-be driver for the second - a test in motorway traffic.

Mr. Child's second idea appears to be much more practical. He insists that drivers are unable to gain a true impression of speed on motorways because of the absence of regular eye-catching roadside features. To support this view he quotes the lack of multiple 'P' signs which have plenty of 'Optic Features' such as signs, shrubs, fences and telegraph poles.

His remedy is the installation of full size human silhouettes at 20-metre intervals on both the hard shoulder and the central reservation. As they flash by the car windows only a most insensitive driver would not obtain a real impression of travelling at high speed.

He concludes that both the type of object and its spacing would need to be fully researched to discover the most effective speed indicator.

New Cabriolet

An open-top version of the best selling Peugeot 205 Cabriolet has been designed by Italian stylist Pininfarina and should be on sale in Britain in about three months' time. On paper at least it appears to be one of the most attractive small cabriolets around today.

However, as owners of open-top conversions of mass-produced family cars know only too-well, good looks are not everything. The success or failure of the venture is determined by the efficiency with which the top is 'chopped off' and the weakened body structure reinforced.

But the Peugeot-Pininfarina partnership augurs well for the 205 Cabriolet. They have been cooperating on open tops for more than 30 years and the body of the latest model is being assembled and painted in Italy.

Saab challenge

It is not often that the wish gives rise to the deed as rapidly as Saab has met my plea for a more flexible, less powerful version of the superb new 9000 turbo-charged five-cylinder turbo which last October of course the new 9000 was the turbo version and that places it

squarely in the same league as two line rivals from Audi, BMW, Mercedes, Renault, Peugeot, Volvo, Ford and the new Rover 800 due later this summer.

Large front wheel drive cars face major problems keeping torque steer within acceptable bounds. Nothing is more off putting than to accelerate to overtake a line of traffic and find that the steering has a mind of its own. The trauma passes almost before it has registered but it does not make for relaxed travel.

Mercurially the new 9000i is free of the handicap with reassuringly neutral steering. Only the most brutal, unfeeling treatment will make it understeer marginally. Indeed the way it clings to the road through fast bends is an absolute joy.

Without the turbo the 9000i is still deceptively swift. On first acquaintance however it appears to be a little sedate. In a 2000 litre turbo 16 was one of the highlights of my test programme last year. I enjoyed every mile of an altogether too brief acquaintance. To say that it is a superb driver's car with outstanding road holding and handling might mislead readers into believing this is an out and out performance car with all the shortcomings in ride and comfort that implies.

Nothing could be further from the truth. At £16,000 the 9000 turbo has a combination of performance and ride comfort that make it a leading challenger in the under £20,000 luxury executive sector.

There were moments when the original model however when turbo lag gave way to scorching acceleration marred by torque steer that I yearned for something a little more docile. The 9000i is the answer. Powered by a normally aspirated version of the same two-litre 16-valve engine with a double overhead camshaft, it will in my view be a much bigger seller than its more powerful brother and give Saab the up, to date medium priced luxury executive missing from their range for so long. The older 900 lacks the space and refinement of the wealth of new models gracing this sector today.

At a shade under £12,000 the 9000i is a thumping £4,000 cheaper than the turbo version and that places it

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RACING: IN-FORM FORMER CHAMPION SET FOR ANOTHER GOOD DAY AT KEMPTON

Dancing Brave leaves the door wide open for Esdale

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Much of the interest in today's Laburnum Stakes at Kempton Park evaporated yesterday when, after walking the course, Guy Harwood decided not to start the vaunted 2,000 Guineas hope Dancing Brave after all.

Nevertheless, the colt's owner, Khalid Abdullah, can still have his colours carried to victory by Esdale, who is trained by Jeremy Tree at Kempton.

A half brother to the 1983 French Oaks winner Escaline, Esdale finished second to Zabdham in his only race as a two-year-old. So with Zabdham winning even so with standard 2,000 Guineas trial at Salisbury on Wednesday the form points to Esdale being one of perhaps four winners for Pat Eddery this afternoon.

Badarab and Nismas met once last season at Newmarket and finished third and fourth, respectively, behind Truly, Niveyev and Huntingdale. They meet now on the same terms.

At this meeting 12 months ago Eddery captured the Polyanthus Maiden Stakes on Moorgate Man and the Stryng Handicap on Alakh. Now I expect him to win the same two races on Enchanted Times (2.00) and Bridge Street Lady (4.30) and perhaps take the Magnolia Stakes as well on the recent course winner Longharst, whose proven fitness will surely count for a lot on such testing ground.

Bridge Street Lady, my selection for the Stryng Handicap, finished second time out to Hilton Brown here on Easter Monday. In the meantime the third horse, Will George, has drawn attention to the reliability of that firm by winning twice, initially at Lingfield and then at Salisbury.

Today's nap though goes on Top Wing to win the Florence Nagle Girl Apprentices Maiden Stakes. I find it significant that Jeremy Hindley left the colt in the Laburnum Stakes as well as the four-day festival stage before deciding to stick to his original plan and give Alison Harper the chance to ride her first winner.

In his only race as a two-year-old, Top Wing was runner-up in Winds of Light, a highly regarded colt trained by Henry Cecil. Knowing that Gay Kelleway's mount, Denise Ryder, who was second to Jazzette at Doncaster, is sure to help to make a market Top Wing should start at reasonable odds.

Abu Kadra and Joli's Girl, second and third, respectively, in the Rosebery Stakes, clash again in the Jonnie Mullings Memorial Handicap with the advantage still justifying with Abu Kadra.

Following an encouraging run in the race won by Will George at Doncaster on the second day of the season, Blacelava is fancied to win the Withersnae Handicap at Beverley where John Matthias looks poised to win a couple of races for Ian Balding on Make Peace (3.15) and Wide Boy (3.45).

Make Peace ran well enough behind Picatrix as a two-year-old to suggest that a race like the Leonfield Maiden Stakes should be there for the taking while Wide Boy will be fit enough for the Bridlington Bay Maiden Stakes following a spell of hurdling.

Further North it should pay to follow John O'Neill at Kelso on Philly Athletic (2.00), Arpal Conquest (2.30) and Agnada Beach (4.00). But even one so talented as O'Neill may not be able to get Norton Cross home in front of



Peter Easterby's Norton Cross, who will be hard pressed to beat Quay Man at Kelso this afternoon.

Quay Man in the Clyde Bridge Challenge Cup. My selection is the proverbial winner without a penalty, having won his last race at Wetherby and then been disqualified.

Play The Knave, another who have featured recently in a controversial finish, is taken to win the Bradden Handicap Chase at Towcester.

It was he who was named the immediate winner of a similar race at Hereford on Easter Monday only to be relegated and placed second 40 minutes later when the judge, who has since resigned as a result, realised that his first interpretation of the photofinish print was wrong.

What cannot be disputed is the fact that Play The Knave ran well enough against one so consistent as Castle Warden to suggest that this should be his consolation prize.

Lord and Lady Tavistock's sward-winning broodmare, Mrs Moss, produced her twelfth foal, a filly by High Line, at the Bloomsbury Stud, Woburn on Wednesday. Mrs Moss, aged 17, is now with the Newmarket-based stallion, Top Ville. Her progeny include Jupiter Island, Precocious and Posby, winner of the Queen Mary Stakes, who has a colt foal by Raise A Cup, Gwyndon's sire, and who has been tested in foal to Seattle Slew.

Eddery on top after Chepstow treble

Pat Eddery, fancied by many pundits to displace Steve Cuddeon as champion jockey this season, swept to the top of the table with a 111-1 treble on Owl Castle, Corn Street and Single at Chepstow yesterday.

Eddery's three winners, all from different stables, put him on the 11 mark but he was beaten on the two hottest favourites of the day, the Jeremy Tree-trained pair, Tondela and Donna's Dream.

Corn Street, always travelling well, took command entering the final furlong of the Mercury Handicap to beat the favourite, Eddery told Bosley that the eight-year-old was only centering.

Bill Wighman, over the years one of the cleverest trainers of handicappers in the game, now only trains about a score of horses just for his friends. He showed that he has not lost his touch by adding Single to his five-lengths clear of the favourite, Lemelstar, in the St Leonards Handicap.

The Upham trainer, who volunteered that he has had his eye on Single, confirmed that Derek Keat, currently in Hong Kong, has been inquiring about buying his yard.

Michael Jarvis, who saddled Ceedah to win the last race at Salisbury very easily on Wednesday, produced another promising second-season filly at when Native Habitat cruised home by eight lengths from S S Samba in the division of the St Arvans Maiden Stakes.

Tondela tried to make all the running, but began to fade fully half a mile from home and trailed in last.

Native Habitat was a 1,000 Guineas entry but Jarvis took her out at the last acceptance stage. He said: "I think she's quite good, but not good enough for that. She stays well, and doesn't mind the soft."

Guineas runners as most of his three-year-olds went further. Pices will go for a maiden at the meeting instead of the 2,000 Guineas.

Peary Sandy, giving chunks of 100 to his five opponents, landed his ninth Newcastle victory with an easy success in the Maggie Handicap Chase. He now makes his first appearance in the William Hill Scottish National at Ayr on Saturday week.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Includes 3.00 LABURNUM STAKES (2-Y-O; £3,800; 1m) (5) and 4.0 MAGNOLIA STAKES (3-Y-O; £2,472; 1m 30yds) (10).

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Includes 4.0 SRYNGA HANDICAP (22.7; 6f) (17) and 5.0 PANAMANTHE HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £2,670; 1m 2f) (12).

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Includes 5.0 BRIDLINGTON BAY MAIDEN STAKES (£1,412; 2m) (17) and 3.45 HORNSE MERE HANDICAP (£1,569; 1m 2f) (14).

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Includes 4.15 BRIDLINGTON BAY MAIDEN STAKES (£1,412; 2m) (17) and 3.45 HORNSE MERE HANDICAP (£1,569; 1m 2f) (14).

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Includes 4.15 BRIDLINGTON BAY MAIDEN STAKES (£1,412; 2m) (17) and 3.45 HORNSE MERE HANDICAP (£1,569; 1m 2f) (14).

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TOWCESTER

Going: heavy

2.0 ABTHORPE NOVICE HURDLE (Div I; £849; 2m) 11/10 runner-up

1. 6541 HOW NOW (C) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

2. 1129 SAZZANO (P) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

3. 1000 DANISH PALMER (C) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

4. 1046 DICKIE'S BEAR (M) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

5. 1047 FRESHMAN (C) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

6. 1048 HIGH DEBATE (M) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

7. 1049 HETTY THE BOOZER (C) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

8. 1050 SINGALWOOD (P) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

9. 1051 JAMES BAL (C) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

10. 1052 THE JUC P (C) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

11. 1053 KESSIE-BEE (C) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

12. 1054 VICTORY LASS (M) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

13. 1055 MAD MARRNER (C) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

14. 1056 SINGALWOOD (P) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

15. 1057 JAMES BAL (C) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

16. 1058 THE JUC P (C) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

17. 1059 KESSIE-BEE (C) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

18. 1060 VICTORY LASS (M) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

19. 1061 MAD MARRNER (C) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

20. 1062 SINGALWOOD (P) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

21. 1063 JAMES BAL (C) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

22. 1064 THE JUC P (C) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

23. 1065 KESSIE-BEE (C) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

24. 1066 VICTORY LASS (M) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

25. 1067 MAD MARRNER (C) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

26. 1068 SINGALWOOD (P) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

27. 1069 JAMES BAL (C) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

28. 1070 THE JUC P (C) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Includes 6.0-80 FLAG OF TRUCE (S) M J Patten 5-11-10 ... M Patten

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Includes 4.0 BLAKESBY NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (£1,024; 2m 5f) (16)

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Includes 3.01 STAKE BRUERNE NOVICE CHASE (Div I; £1,024; 2m 5f) (11)

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Includes 3.00 BRADDEN HANDICAP CHASE (£1,932; 3m 150yds) (11)

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Includes 3.00 STAKE BRUERNE NOVICE CHASE (Div II; £1,024; 2m 5f) (10)

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Includes 5.00 COLD HIGHLAND HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,242; 2m) (16)

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Includes 3.30 ABTHORPE NOVICE HURDLE (Div II; £819; 2m) (18)

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Includes 3.00 STAKE BRUERNE NOVICE CHASE (Div II; £1,024; 2m 5f) (10)

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Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Includes 3.00 STAKE BRUERNE NOVICE CHASE (Div II; £1,024; 2m 5f) (10)

KEMPTON PARK

Going: good soft

Draw: high numbers best

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Includes 2.0 POLYANTHUS MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; £1,944; 5f) (8 runners)

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Includes 2.30 FLORENCE NAGLE GIRL APPRENTICES MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O; £1,867; 1m 1f) (5)

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Includes 2.0 ENCHANTED TIMES, 2.30 TOP WING (Nap), 3.0 Abu Kadra, 3.30 Esdale, 4.0 Longharst, 4.30 Bridge Street Lady, 5.0 Golden Croft.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Includes 3.0 JONNIE MULLINGS MEMORIAL HANDICAP (3,185; 1m 4f) (12)

Table with 2 columns: Race Name and Horses. Includes 3.00 ENCHANTED TIMES, 2.30 TOP WING (Nap), 3.0 Abu Kadra, 3.30 Esdale, 4.0 Longharst, 4.30 Bridge Street Lady, 5.0 Golden Croft.

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Sherwood fined £250

The Lambour trainer Oliver Sherwood was fined £250 by the Jockey Club yesterday after being reported to racing's governing authority by a fellow trainer.

The incident was sparked off when Clive Cox, Sherwood's young jockey, was booked to partner two horses in the same hurdle race at Lingfield in December following a misapprehension.

The horses were trained by Colin Williams and Gavin Pritchard-Gordon. As Cox is still a conditional jockey, Sherwood is responsible for his riding arrangements.

After a disciplinary inquiry yesterday, Sherwood said: "I was reported to the Disciplinary Committee by Colin Williams. I accept it is my responsibility to avoid misunderstandings like this, but you can understand Mr Williams' concern."

Williams' concern was not exactly my best friend at the moment."

The West County amateur jockey Polly Curling was banned for 28 days to take effect from today, by the Jockey Club for forging a signature. It is believed to be the stiffest punishment handed out to a woman jockey at Portman Square, Miss Curling, who has ridden with success under Rules and in point-to-point, and also with the Disciplinary Committee and she misled the Stewards by forging a trainer's signature when submitting an application for an amateur rider's permit for the 1985-86 season.

After his recent win at Cardale, Coulters Candy is likely to start favourite for the Horse and Hound Buccleuch Hunters Chase at Kelso this afternoon.

The seven-year-old was also this season being ridden by Flying Express and Drummond Lass, runners here today, at the Brighton meeting a fortnight ago.

Better each-way value, however, may be Birtley Boy, in receipt of 5lb, after beating Winning Brief at Colbridge in the latest time of the day just failed to give him 7lb next time out in a 3m 5f race at the Tynedale meeting.

Course specialists

TRAINERS: E. Robson, 5 winners from 24 runners, 33.3%; S. Seal, 21 from 79, 26.6%; J. Patten, 19 from 53, 35.8%; N. Day, 7 from 21, 33.3%; J. Seabrook, 15 from 73, 20.6%.

JOCKEYS: G. Dwyer, 15 from 53, 28.3%; N. Day, 7 from 21, 33.3%; J. Seabrook, 15 from 73, 20.6%.

TRAINERS: C. Thompson, 15 winners from 82 runners, 18.3%; R. A. King, 10 from 30, 33.3%; J. Patten, 11 from 14, 78.6%; J. Seabrook, 10 winners from 34 runners, 29.4%; N. Day, 7 from 21, 33.3%.

JOCKEYS: G. Dwyer, 15 from 53, 28.3%; N. Day, 7 from 21, 33.3%; J. Seabrook, 15 from 73, 20.6%.

TRAINERS: J. C. Todd, 14 winners from 82 runners, 17.1%; R. A. King, 10 from 30, 33.3%; J. Patten, 11 from 14, 78.6%; J. Seabrook, 10 winners from 34 runners, 29.4%; N. Day, 7 from 21, 33.3%.

JOCKEYS: G. Dwyer, 15 from 53, 28.3%; N. Day, 7 from 21, 33.3%; J. Seabrook, 15 from 73, 20.6%.

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Birtley Boy looks value

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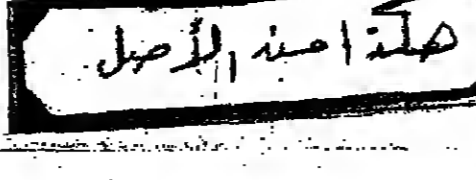
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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Jane Henderson and Peter Davalle



Sir Huw Wheldon: a tribute on BBC 1, 10.25pm

BBC 1
6.00 Cee-eez
6.50 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Doreen Green...

ITV AM
6.15 Good Morning Britain with Anne Diamond and Nick Owen...



BBC 2
6.55 Open University Ethnic Minorities: Punjab to Britain...

CHOICE
magazine Monitor shall think of the Omnibus film as just an interim portrait...

CHANNEL 4
2.20 The Lordship's House. Last night's programme of highlights from the House of Lords (1)

Radio 4
On long wave, VHF stereo variations at end of Radio 4...

Radio 3
On medium wave, except for VHF variations given at end of Radio 3...

Peter Davalle
night's edition which includes comment on Times, with Cliff Richard...

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS
GRANADA As London except 9.25am Euro-pan Foot...

WORLD SERVICE
6.00 Newsweek 6.30 Menden 7.00 Jazz from Europe 7.45 Mersey News...

YORKSHIRE As London except 8.25am Seaside Street 10.25am News...

ENTERTAINMENTS
CONCERTS
AMERICAN HALL 400 STOPS/620 8001. 7.15-7.45. Public House...

SPORT

Political hypocrisy at Games

Soviets' part in S African gymnastics

An event takes place here today and tomorrow in the Johannesburg Centenary South African Games which makes a mockery of the international anti-apartheid blockade of South African sport.

From David Miller, Johannesburg

South Africa is still a member of the international federation contains African members. The International Olympic Committee exhorted the various international sports federations not to send competitors to these Games, in spite of which there have been clandestine Americans, Europeans and Japanese — among them an English women's judo team — competing in wrestling, judo, cycling and squash.

An American anti-apartheid campaign, led by Arthur Ashe, the former Wimbledon champion, protested to the gymnastics officials and the issue is expected to be raised on their return.

Robert Cowan, the chief coach accompanying the US team, said yesterday: "We are not here to support a racist government, but to take part in sport. We are a nation born of mixed races like South Africa, and we are pleased and proud to be here."

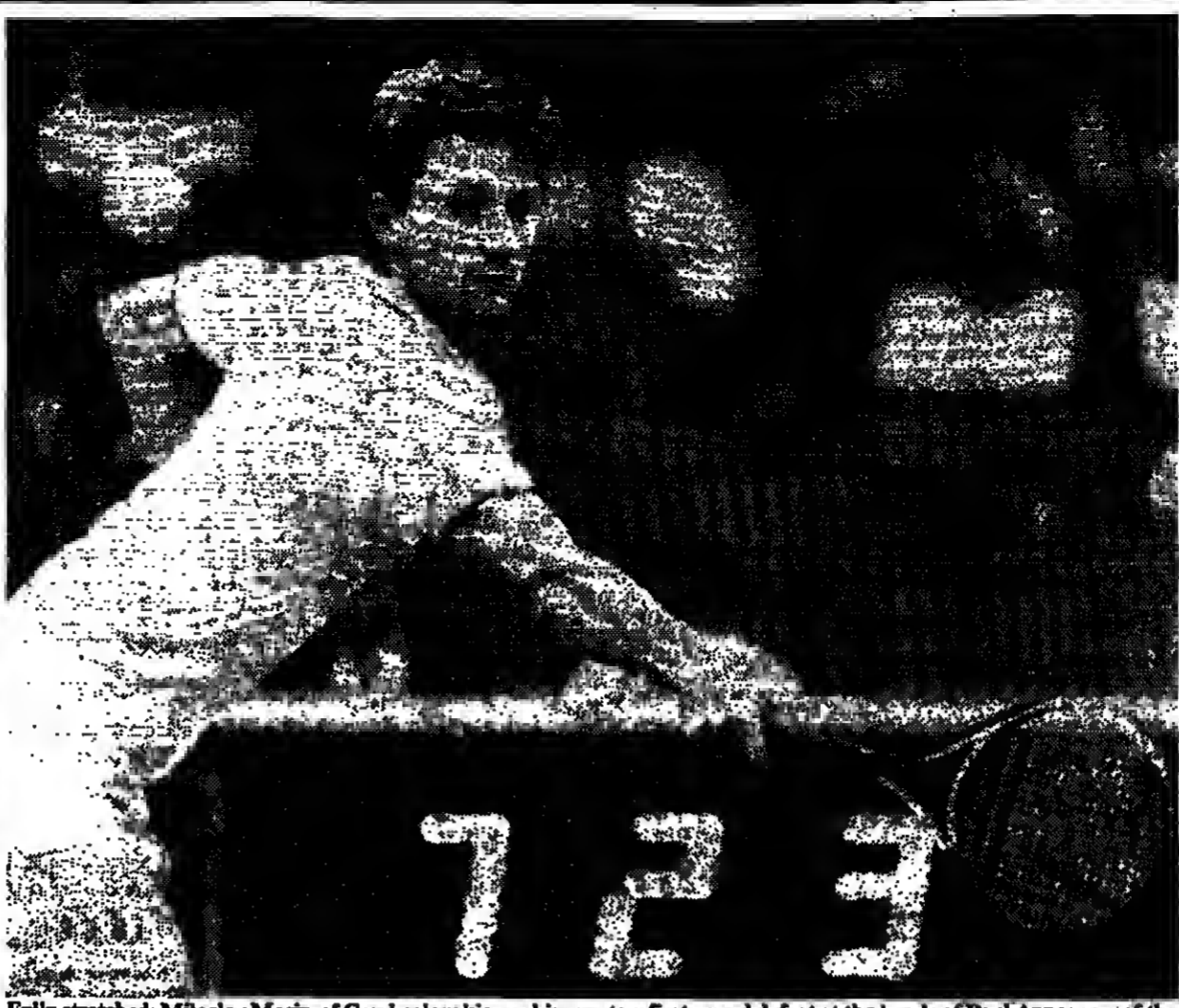
The American gymnasts have favoured wearing their official blazers, not wishing to hide their identity. Cowan says that some of the men's team, which includes their most promising teenagers,

may well be competing in the next world championships at the Olympic Games in Seoul, alongside Soviet gymnasts. Hugo Olivier, the president of the South African Gymnastics Federation, believes that they have retained their international affiliation because they have put no pressure on the international federation or IOC by attempting to compete in the world championships or Olympics.

"I have a very good relationship with Mr Titov," Mr Olivier says. It is his opinion that other South African sports have encountered international hostility because they have wanted to remain at the top level of international competition. He stressed the necessity for South Africa to be patient, to play a waiting game, and to work at the expansion of domestic integration.

Max Bangarter, the general secretary of the international federation, told me from the Swiss headquarters yesterday: "South Africa is still a member of the federation, so it is up to them to look for competitors. We have nothing against that. According to our statutes, there should be no political influence in the sport, though we do not report South Africa's result in our bulletin so as not to have trouble with the IOC."

"We wouldn't want to be involved in this problem, and we don't wish to provoke an East-West separation. What the Americans do is their decision, and depends whether or not they are afraid of repercussions. Some of our members, such as Denmark for example, do not give the South Africans visas to attend a gala competition in Denmark."



Fully stretched: Miroslav Mezir, of Czechoslovakia, on his way to a first-round defeat at the hands of Paul Anacone, of the United States, at the World Championship of Tennis finals in Dallas. (Report page 30)

Safety in boxing is under review

New safety measures are to be urgently examined by one of boxing's main controlling bodies as a result of another ring tragedy. South Africa, which has strong representation on the World Boxing Association's executive, is to propose that referees be obliged to stop bouts earlier, as soon as a boxer is groggy. Other measures are also being considered.

"Referees tend to get stage-fright and hesitate too long over ending a fight," Dr Inak Labachague, a member of the WBA's medical committee, said. "Often the really damaging blow is delivered after an earlier punch that has left a boxer slightly concussed. His brain and body are then physiologically unable to withstand another severe blow. One of the most recent examples was the bout between Frank Bruno and the former world heavyweight champion, Gerrie Coetzee. Under the new proposal, the referee should have stopped the bout after the first punch that floored Coetzee."

Dr Labachague says the WBA executive meeting next month will be asked to take a "very hard-headed look" at other steps. He expects world boxing to face a renewed campaign in several countries for the sport to be banned after the death of Steve Watt, the Scottish lightweight, last month.

Among WBA regulations in the last three years have been tighter restrictions on the number of bouts allowed each year, and a requirement of a three-month lay-off, plus full neurological tests for any boxer knocked out in a world title or championship contest.

Another rule, not yet fully implemented, is designed to stop boxers trying to lose too much weight to meet the limit immediately before a bout.

Experts working on new gloves

South African medical experts have been working on designs for new boxing gloves. Dr Cive Noble, the boxing board's medical adviser, came up with the worrying conclusion that standard boxing gloves lose 40 per cent of their cushioning properties after about 50 punches — usually no later than the third round. After 200 punches, they have hardly any cushioning ability at all, research at the University of Stellenbosch found.

He has developed gloves made of a new substance, but they have not yet found international acceptability. One substance his researchers developed took 96 per cent of the sting out of a blow. The new gloves are similar to that used in modern athletes' running shoes. "But then you'd hardly ever get a knock-down, let alone a knock-out," Dr Noble said. "We need a happy balance. That balance is difficult to achieve, in that reduced cushioning power may also have drawbacks."

The number of blows a boxer receives to the head throughout his career can often be a more serious cause of brain damage than knock-out punches. This was revealed in an American study, which concluded that those "sub-concussive" punches to the head eventually cause shrinking of the brain tissue. Another American study showed that 83 per cent of the sampled boxers had some degree of brain damage.

The drawback, then, to reducing the power of punches is that more of them will rain down in every bout. Dr Labachague in fact wonders whether such gloves may not cause long-term harm, as blows to the head are delivered, rather than one "clean" knock-out punch.

Most important, according to the latest thinking, is that boxers be made to retire earlier — as soon as any evidence of reduced brain functioning occurs. The problem is to detect it early enough.

Paul Martin

Watt verdict, page 28

Rebel tour

A party of New Zealand All Blacks will leave Wellington on Sunday for a series of rugby union international matches in South Africa. The Auckland Star reported on Thursday. The newspaper understands that the party would be joined by eight All Blacks taking part next week in the International Rugby Board centenary matches in Britain.

Lesser lights set the target

From Mitchell Potts, Augusta, Georgia

Bill Kratzert has won only once in the last six years, but his lack of success did not hinder his progress in the fifth US Masters as he put together a four-under-par first round of 68 on the Augusta National course here yesterday. Kratzert, aged 33, from Fort Wayne, Indiana, established the early target with a round that included five birdies. He was later joined at the top of the leader board by his compatriot, Ken Green.

The prominence of Kratzert and Green continued the recent success rate of the lesser known American golfers. Even so, there were several familiar faces back in the reckoning for the first major championship of the 1986 season. Tom Watson has not won on American soil for two years but he made an encouraging

start, with a score of 70. Greg Norman, of Australia, also left behind his indifferent form of late with a 70 and then Ben Krenshaw, the 1984 Masters champion, completed a 71. Watson boled from 14th for his first birdie at the short sixth and he turned in 35. He made more significant progress at the long thirteenth where he was on the green with a three-wood approach. Watson boled from 20th for an eagle-three and although he dropped a shot at the sixteenth, where he took three putts, he was clearly happy to emerge with a good score.

Meanwhile, Severiano Ballesteros, conspicuous by his absence from the fairways this season because of his ban from the US tour, laid the foundation to win a third Masters title with a 71. The Spaniard completed an out-

ward half of 35 with a superb approach to one foot for a birdie at the ninth (435yd) but he followed another birdie at the long thirteenth by taking six at the fifteenth (503yd). Bernhard Langer, the defending champion, and Sandy Lyle had their troubles. Langer, who dropped a shot at each of the last two holes, completed a 74, while Lyle, following an adventurous start, took 76. The Open champion was compelled to hole from 12th to scramble a par at the first. He came out of a green-side bunker to 30ft and holed for a birdie at the long second, then dropped shots at both the third and fourth holes. A pulled one-iron into the trees cost Lyle another shot at the eighth and he took three to get down from the edge at the next.

Lyle appeared to be in good shape after holing from 10ft for a birdie at the tenth. However, he failed to make a birdie at either the long thirteenth or fifteenth, then took three putts at both the sixteenth and seventeenth to drop a shot on each green. "I didn't drive at all well and, in a nutshell, it was a scrappy and frustrating round," said Lyle. FIRST ROUND: Early leaders (US unless stated): 68: B Kratzert, K Green, 69: G Koch, 70: T Watson, G Norman (Aus), T Kim, 71: R Maltbie, B Greenhaw, D Edwards, S Ballesteros (Sp), 72: B Gleason, F Couples, 73: D Hammond, J Zoller, W Lew, C Strang, 74: D Tewell, B Gardner, M O'Meara, C Stadler, J Sigafoos, R Floyd, B Langer (W), 75: G Fouts, R Fehr, A Bean, K Kiser, P Stewart, S Randolph (A), 76: J Haas, D Pohl, T Silla, P Parsons (A), J Renner, S Simpson, C Drury (A), M Wiebe, M McQuinn, L Trevino, S Lyle (GB), 77: G Player (SA), B Swann, 78: G McGilvrey (A), D Ford, B Casper, 79: J Furrer, G Heberg.

GOLF

HOCKEY

Britain are in line for medal

From Sydney Friskin Karachi

Great Britain fought furiously to beat India in the Champions Trophy Tournament here yesterday to put themselves in line for a medal. But they must wait for the outcome of today's matches between Pakistan and Australia and the Netherlands and West Germany. Goal difference may solve the tangle should Pakistan and the Netherlands win.

A short corner converted by Paul Barber in the ninth minute of the second half proved decisive, as it did in the previous tournament at Perth, where Britain defeated India 2-1, to win the silver. Ian Taylor, in goal, kept to a penalty stroke in the 17th minute in the first half. GREAT BRITAIN: Taylor; S Merwin, P Barber, J Potter, R Doocey, W McCourt, S Barber (sub: K Shaur), R Leman, S Kerly (J Shaw), D Faulkner, J Duffin. INDIA: R Feroz, Pragas Singh, Vinay Kumar, M Sharma, J Carvalho, Abdul Aziz, Tiroen Singh, Jagdeep Singh (Sub: M Gerness), Hardeep Singh, Mohan Singh, Thobe Singh. UMPIRES: A Shuter (West Germany) and K Bajwa (Pakistan).

The most we can hope for, perhaps, is that England should break the sequence of defeat, standing now at nine in a row. If, surrounded by so many distractions, subjected to such wholesale criticism, unprovoked by so many excuses and opposed by a much stronger side, they can do themselves some sort of justice, a draw should be beyond them. This will be the fourth Test match played in Antigua and there have always been runs to be had here. In 1980-81 Willey and Boycott both made hundreds for England, while in 1982-83 Amarnath and Shastri did so for India. The trouble has been, of course, that the West Indians have always scored more. Their lowest total has been 468 for nine declared, against England five years ago. In 1982-83 they got 550 against India against Australia in 1983-84 they settled for 498.

By both past and present West Indian cricketers it is considered that except in the first Test match at Sabina Park the pitches have been nothing like as bad for batting as England have made them appear. The truth, I think, lies somewhere between the two views. What is less in dispute is that the same degree of courage and technique, and the same high level of performance and determination, may not be required of England again until they return here next in four years' time.

Willey doubt

Peter Willey, who flew home on Wednesday from England's cricket tour of the West Indies after damaging his right knee on a training run, underwent surgery in a Northampton hospital yesterday. A hospital spokesman said later that Willey was resting comfortably.

ATHLETICS

Marathon runs into trouble

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

The London Marathon faces a drastic reduction in its number of participants from next year. The problem has arisen because of the lack of assurance from the Prime Minister and from Dick Tracey, the Minister for Sport, over the continuing use of County Hall and adjacent space near the race finish.

The 1986 race, on Sunday week, will have around 22,000 runners, but Chris Brasher, the race director, said yesterday: "In 1987 the biggest marathon field in the world could be cut by up to 10,000 and entry fees rise by 50 to 100 per cent."

Because of cuts in the Metropolitan Police's funding, the marathon organizers have been asked to pay £53,000 for the erection of barriers around the course. Last year's race surplus was £55,000, which went towards recreational facilities in the seven London boroughs through which the race is run. "So that could go to," Brasher said.

Brasher maintains that the use of County Hall and the adjacent Jubilee Gardens, car parks and Royal Festival Hall is crucial to the continuation of the marathon in its present form.

Denis Canavan, the Labour MP for Falkirk West, and Gary Walker, Conservative MP for Keighley, both of whom are running the marathon, are united in their concern for the future of the race, and Canavan said yesterday that he intends to lay down a question in parliament in the next few weeks, and to solicit an all-party group to push for action.

It is the desire to maintain what Brasher calls "the best race finish in the world" — on Westminster Bridge with Big Ben in the background — that is behind the reclamation of County Hall. Brasher is hoping that after the Government sale, County Hall will be reopened as a hotel, "in which case we would be prepared to pay the £25,000 that we already pay for accommodation in order to use it."

Tracey has rebuffed an attempt by Brasher to get the Government to put a clause in the sale document ensuring that the new owner must make provision for the London Marathon on one weekend a year.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Cricketers Star backing protest

The Cricketers Association voiced their disapproval yesterday at the cancellation of the Bangladesh and Zimbabwe test tour in England. In a statement issued on behalf of the 130 members at their meeting in Edgubaston by their chairman, Geoff Cook, the Northampton captain, they also called for the International Cricket Conference to ensure its own rules and regulations are fully observed by all its members in future.

India recover

Sharjah (Reuters) — India recovered from a remarkable upper-order collapse to beat New Zealand by three wickets with eight balls to spare here yesterday in the opening match of the Australasia Cup. New Zealand, badly hit by withdrawals and injuries, would probably have brought off a surprising win but for two costly dropped catches. SCORES: New Zealand 182 for 8 (44 overs); India 184 for 7 (41.4 overs). India won by 8 wickets.

Star backing

Dan Marino, the quarter back for the Miami Dolphins, is due to arrive in Britain on Sunday to support the start of the Budweiser League, Britain's major American football league.

Lea dismissed

Colchester United have dismissed their manager, Cyril Lea, and the player-coach, Stuart Houston. Martin Bennett, secretary of the fourth division club, said that neither figured in future managerial plans. Mike Walker, the former first-team goalkeeper, who has been running the reserve team, will be the caretaker manager until the end of the season.

Douglas wins

Desmond Douglas beat Bruno Parienti, of France, 21-19, 21-16, 21-13, in the second round of the European table tennis championships in Prague yesterday after being 18-19 down in the first game (a Special Correspondent writes). England's other men's seed, Carl Prean, also came through in straight games, against Don José Maria Pales, of Spain, but the no 3, Alan Cooke, was beaten by the top seeded Swede, Jan-Ove Waldner.

Cricketer school

Yorkshire County Cricket Club yesterday announced plans to convert a disused warehouse into a cricket school, at a cost of £500,000. The building is opposite the Herbert Sutcliffe gates at Headingley.

Botham will have to be quick

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, St John's, Antigua

With the start of the fifth Test match here today, England have a last chance of salvaging something, however small, from their ill-fated tour. There are few grounds for hope — except hope itself. To have been alive when England last beat West Indies it is already necessary to have been born before April 6, 1974, and it is hard to think that this span is not about to be extended, anyway until June 1988, when West Indies come to England next.

Immunity from defeat can be a dangerous anodyne. As yet, though, it shows no sign of affecting these present West Indians and there is nowhere that Richards would rather complete a second successive "blackwash" over England than within barely a mile of where he was born.

As a result of five inches of rain last weekend, some of which got on to the pitch, preparation for the match is behind the clock. The outfield still looked a mess yesterday,

and as with all the others in this series the pitch will be greater than of old, if not as fast. When the pitch is just the jail just across the road looked after the ground, they kept it in better shape than it is now, and they loved doing it. Twenty-five years ago it was one of the best and fastest pitches in the world.

Yesterday, despite strenuous efforts by the England manager to arrange them, there were no facilities to be found anywhere on the island for England to have a worthwhile practice. The nearest Gattings got to having an innings was when he put on a helmet and some batting gloves and asked Tony Brown to throw him some short balls — one of the hotel's concrete paths.

Things are not helped by there being some doubt about Gower's fitness to play. He was hit a nasty blow on the right wrist by Marshall in the first innings of the fourth Test and gives himself nothing better than a 50-50 chance of taking the field today. Should be unable to, Gattings will lead England for the first time, though probably not the last. Slack is preferred to Robinson as Gooch's opening partner, which is a sad come-down for Robinson after his two splendid series against India and Australia.

He will be back, no doubt, though only to West Indies if in the meantime he has shown himself better able to cope with the shortest and fastest bowling. If Gower has to stand today, Robinson will get another chance. As in the last Test, the England side contains only four bowlers, with Ellison replacing Thomas, whose confidence took a hammering in Trinidad.

If the figures from the last two series here this winter, and in England in 1984, are taken as a guide, England will score around 190 in their first innings and West Indies something of the order of 400 in theirs. Should West Indies need to bat a second time, they are unlikely to have many to make to win. Which explains why another Antiguan, Andy Roberts, when asked whether he thought Botham would pick up the four more wickets he requires to pass Dennis Lillee's record total of 355, said that it would have to be in the first innings if he was going to do it. Roberts even allowed himself a smile.

Like vultures, the newsmen have flown in from around the world to pick at England's remains, and not to praise what would be a great achieve-

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